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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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Monsters of the Deep!

About the Cover—

L.I.F. editor Doc Muller presented winning trophies to the Long Beach Striper Club for the L.I.F. Saltwater Fishing Contest at a recent club meeting. From left to right: Paul Hoercher (Contest Committee Chairman, holding trophy for Overall Bass), Doc Muller, and Ed Tanner (President, holding trophy for N.Y.S. Overall Point Winner.)

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER

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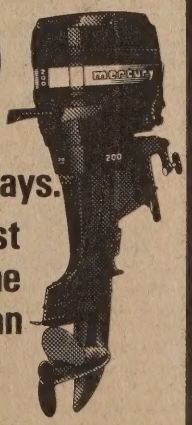

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From the Editor's Head

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OUR PURPOSES

Although The Long Island Fisherman is a regional recreational publication, and therefore a fun publication, we take our responsibilities to our readers and advertisers very seriously. We go fishing because we find that it is a fun hobby, but we are serious about getting the best information that money can buy to help us enjoy the sport as much as possible. Likewise, advertisers enjoy their chosen occupations, but realize that if their sales message doesn't reach the people that they will not be in a position to serve their customers or make a profit.

Thus, we serve many purposes. Obviously, one of our most important functions is to provide accurate and current fishing reports, and to achieve that result we receive the cooperation of many advertisers and many fishing observers all over Long Island. We constantly monitor the sources of information, the quality of the information, and we seek new sources of information. We also look at how the information is presented in the hope that we can make it easier for the readers to dig out of the reports information which is relevant to their needs.

Our columns and feature articles strive to bring information on where to find the fish and how to catch the fish. We constantly strive to present new writers with new viewpoints, and we seek out experts in particular types of fishing techniques. We are indeed fortunate that many of our readers are excellent fishermen and are willing to pass on to others precious and accurate information. From time to time we offer special articles, too, on how to make anything from rods to chum pots.

The advertising sections of the publication are valuable, not only to advertisers, but our readers also who find that good honest advertising helps them to find the tackle and equipment they need at the best prices.

We also recognize a responsibility to help clubs, power squadrons, and other organizations with relevant information communicate their messages to our readers. Thus, we provide Club News, Boating, and Pass It On sections. Unfortunately, we cannot always print all the information that we receive—either because of space lilmitations or because we receive the information too late for timely publication, but we do make every effort to print as much as possible.

The Chum Lines section of the publication is designed to provide a forum for reader and advertiser opinions and/or general information. Many people write to us and once again, we try to print as many of these letters as we can. Those that do not fit into the opinion or general information category, we answer personally as quickly as possible.

Every media today has recognized the need for editorial comment and The Long Island Fisherman is no exception. The first editorials began to appear in L.I.F. shortly after the publication was born thirteen years ago. We were the first in this area to alert readers to the need for a 200-Mile Limit way back in the mid-1960s, and our contribution to that effort has been recognized in many quarters. We have also helped to stop saltwater license legislation; were influential in promoting some changes within the DEC, enlisted reader support for the passage of the Pisani-Mannix Bill (Bunker Law), and we have been instrumental in generating opposition to several attempts to build a bridge across Long Island Sound. Perhaps most importantly, we have helped to get the fishermen's message to legislators, commissioners, and other public officials that we fishermen are here! We care about our future, we care about our marine habitats, we care about marine finfish; we are informed about political process, and we understand what our true value is to the economy of the State of New York! They have gotten the message that we are a force to be reckoned with and they respect both the opinions and the power saltwater fishermen can muster. As Assemblyman Kidder put it at a 1976 public hearing on his saltwater license bill: "We are well aware of the support that your publication can generate. We have received quite a bit of mail on this bill, and most of the letters mention your publication." There is power in numbers, and we try to let you know what's happening and how your interest and efforts can be most effective. We may not always succeed, but by trying, we have helped our readers to educate politicians about the strength of our convictions and the diligence of our surveillance!

But this is not the only function of editorials. Frequently, media prepare editorials with the intention of stimulating discussion and even controversy. This is the obligation of public media. By bringing information out in the open and stimulating interest about the idea, the publication provides an opportunity for a dialogue in which someone may come up with a solution or point of view that may help all of us. That solution or idea does not have to come from us, and in the past it has not always come from us. Many readers and advertisers have taken the bull by the horns, sat down, and wrote us a letter. This is great! Sometimes the letters agree with us—but many times they disagree. Both types of letters are given equal time around here! We do not expect that everybody will agree with us all of the time or even most of

(Continued on page 25.)

Pass It On...

EASTERN L.I. BOAT SHOW & MARINE EXPO

Marine Promotions Ltd., in conjunction with Southampton College is promoting something new in boat shows. The Eastern Long Island Boat Show and Marine Expo will be held on the campus of Southampton College, County Road 39 (North Highway), Southampton, New York. The show hours are: Saturday, April 15, 10 AM to 9 PM., and Sunday, April 16, 10 AM to 6 PM.

This show will be different, specializing in small boats under thirty feet, with fully rigged sailboats, the top names in power and a wide range of marine accessories. There will be over eighty boats on display in the huge events building and surrounding areas, representing more than a million dollars in retail products.

On hand will be the East End's largest fishing tackle dealers offering first-hand information on outfitting everything from small skiffs to pocket-sized offshore machines. Like the rest of the show, accessories being displayed will be aimed at the small boat owner and buyer, with emphasis on everything from propeller reconditioning to the latest in digital marine electronics.

The show will offer "**free**" films on marine subjects; a two-man dry submarine—built right here on Long Island, and an opportunity for small boat owners and buyers alike to see what's available today in the small boat field.

Any further information will be gladly supplied by contacting myself or any one of the boat show staff at 516-728-0922.

FISHING ACCESS TO FORT SCHUYLER

Fishing access is available at the Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, N.Y. Fishing registration begins April 4 and ends on April 15. Fishing is only permitted from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with the ID card, and is restricted to Campus Jetty parking lot #9. Facilities are open to fishing on a limited basis: weekends, summers, holidays.

There are other rules and regulations which may be obtained by writing to: Mr. Gary Russell, Director of Administration, Maritime College, Fort Schuyler, Bronx, N.Y. 10465.

CHUM LINES

THE BEST ROD LATHE?

My rod lathe was completed a day before Joe LaCava's article, "Build a Rod Lathe" appeared in your Feb. 9 edition. I am concerned with some of his construction omissions, misleading price quotations and the lack of specific references as to sources of hardware. Not all of us have the time nor the inclination to work out construction details and "scavenge" the necessary hardware to construct a rod lathe and my wife would have some few choice words for me if I borrowed hardware from her sewing machine.

I purchased a motor, foot pedal, pulley and drive belt for $16 and change at a discount sewing machine center listed in the yellow pages. Two pillow blocks and two collars to hold the shaft cost me $8 and change at a hardware store in Farmingdale. This item is difficult to locate. My pillow blocks have bronze bearings, not ball bearings which cost a great deal more. A half-inch drive shaft was easy to locate through a series of calls to hardware stores, but locating a machine shop to turn down the end to receive a quarter-inch chuck is impossible at a reasonable cost. You must find a friend to do this work. The drill chuck, five-inch pulley and a five-inch 100 grit (fine) grinding wheel cost me $15 and change at Sears. The total cost of my rod lathe totaled over $50—which includes lumber, screws, glue, hardware, taxes, the whole works.

Construction of my rod lathe was straightforward with little difficulty, except with the alignment of my felt-lined "V" blocks and the adjustment of the tension of the motor drive belt. From start to finish required 16 hours of my time, most of which was spent locating the hardware and applying three coats of polyurethane varnish. And this is precisely the point I'm trying to make: with complete plans and references to a source of hardware, my lathe could have been completed in **six** hours. Listed sources of used materials could reduce the cost considerably.

In summary, I have completed a fine looking rod lathe which looks like a piece of furniture and performs beautifully. Today, I could build the same lathe at one-half the cost, in one-half the time from my experience and my detailed plans. How many readers of The Fisherman could do the same after reading Joe LaCava's article? **Ken House, Bellmore, N.Y.**

Your comments are certainly appreciated and we are sure that they may help some of our readers to plan a better rod lathe. But we are not sure where the difference of opinion lies. You say that your motor, pulley, and

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foot pedal cost you $16. Mr. LaCava predicted a cost of between $10 and $20, depending upon the quality of the items selected. We think that Mr. LaCava provided a very good description of how to put the thing together. Since he was saying that a variety of materials could be begged, borrowed, and scavenged depending upon the inclination of the builder and resources available, detailed drawings would be meaningless. You indicate that your rod lathe "looks like a piece of furniture and performs beautifully" and we're willing to bet that it does and is! Mr. LaCava's lathe is designed to be efficient and functional. He probably throws it on the work bench or the bottom of a closet when he's not using it. We really don't think that you have any disagreement with Mr. LaCava. It boils down to a matter of personal preference and interpretation and we say, "Vive la difference!"

WHAT IS SOS?

It appears SOS had an article printed in a New York newspaper predicting extinction of striped bass within five years.

A few years ago, this same organization claimed all bass were contaminated and unfit to eat. This proved false! These same people have tried pushing useless legislation for years.

Who is SOS? Are they a bass authority?—No—! Are they a fishing club? I don't see their club in L.I.F. or Schaefer Tournament standings. There wasn't any shortage of bass as witnessed by the results of these tournaments.

I think that if the members of SOS spent more time reading L.I.F. and more time fishing, they might find there isn't any shortage of bass at all! **Don Ambuco, Bklyn., N.Y.**

To begin with, in an attempt to answer your question, SOS stands for SAVE OUR STRIPERS. It is not a fishing club; therefore, they do not participate in tournaments or fishing contests. SOS is an environmental group that consists of concerned fishermen and other interested individuals and their primary area of concern is the conservation of the striped bass. You suggest that members of SOS should spend more time reading L.I.F. and fishing. Let me assure you, from personal knowledge, that most SOS members read L.I.F. and that many SOS members fish very hard. They were hard-working fisherpeople before they were participating in SOS, and they still do. In the last few years, striped bass have gone from a pinnacle of abundance to what is today a valley of shortage. This is not to say that good catches of bass have not been made in isolated instances, but if we look at the overall catch statistics, there are strong indications that the stocks of bass are down significantly and most authorities agree. Yes, SOS people are striped bass authorities—not by formal training but by diligent and persistent independent study. That does not mean that we have always agreed with their opinions: knowledge, training, and authority are not licenses for perfection—either for SOS or L.I.F. We have disagreed with them several times, but a lack of commonality of opinion should not and cannot be construed to mean that SOS does not have much of great value to contribute or that they have not already made a significant contribution to our respect and understanding of the species and its habitats. Then too, unlike many of us who gripe a lot and do nothing, members of SOS have lifted themselves off their duffs and tried to make this a better world. In spite of much adversity, they continue to fight hard for a better shake for the striped bass.

IDEAS FROM AN OLD-TIME READER

I have done all kinds of fishing for 45 years, but the best of it was fishing with my son on his boat, which he keeps in Stonington, Conn., during the fall of 1976.

Why buy all kinds of expensive lures and tackle for striped bass. Just take a fly rod and line, put on a porgie hook plus a little chicken feathers and cast it out. With this lure, we have caught bass to 18 lbs., and a nice trophy from The Race. I thank you as an old-time reader of L.I.F. **Joseph Owaz, Long Island City, NY.**

It's great to hear from an old-time reader, and you're right about simplicity in tackle often being preferable to fancy goods. We've used reliable chicken feathers for about twenty-five years, with good success. There are times when technology and quality tackle are required for success, but thank goodness not all the time. It's still possible for "the kid with the bent straight-pin" to catch fish.

SOME THOUGHTFUL THOUGHTS

Having been a subscriber for the past year, I wish to take the time to comment on your magazine, ask a few questions, and register one gripe.

Being a so-so fisherman, your articles, columns, and even advertisements are exactly what I was looking for. Your magazine is the best special interest publication I have come across: informative, accurate, and "folksy." However, since I do most of my fishing on the North Shore between College Point and Huntington Harbor from the shore, I would appreciate more articles referring to this popular area specifically. Perhaps a paragraph in your Fishing Report column titled, "Little Neck Bay" or something like that. This is a great fishing area, for I have seen fishermen get fluke on jigs, bass to 30 lbs. on lures, weaks on Lafayettes, and blues on anything. But mostly only the "sharpies" get results. A few articles from you may spread the wealth, so to say.

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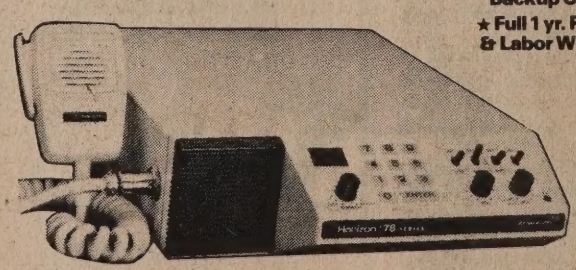

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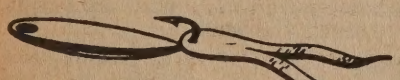
Also, especially during the winter months, could you run more articles of a story-telling nature? It would be fun sharing good fishing stories, especially if one cannot get down to the water due to snow, work, etc.

My question is: do you know of any fishing clubs convenient to the North Shore on the western side? I would like to look into a fishing club, but do not know of any.

And, finally, my gripe. My subscription was entered during your free Ava Jig offer and I never received mine. I should have written long ago, but my faith in eventually receiving it is only now beginning to waiver. **Tom Ganley, Whitestone, NY.**

We exist in order to bring our readers the news and fishing info that they need to succeed, and it's nice to know that we succeed at least in some small measure. Your comment about poor west end Sound coverage is "right on." This year we plan a series of articles on a variety of species that can be caught in the extreme western portion of the Sound. Andy Regina and Ron Onorato will author these articles. Both men are great fishermen who have fished in the Sound for many years. Towards the end of the past season we endeavored to add more fishing news from this area to our reports and we'll try to keep the trend going. Incidentally, if any fishermen care to call us Monday mornings with reports of good fishing in that area, we'll have an appreciative open ear!

About your gripe. This is a good opportunity to explain what has been a common experience for many of our readers. We do send out the jigs and lures, but they frequently get lost somewhere, somehow. Please be patient. If you were supposed to receive a promotional offer with your subscription but did not, give us a call and we'll send one along in a hurry!



CLUB NEWS

RONKONKOMA CLUB LOOKS FOR MEMBERS

Ronkonkoma Rod & Gun Club is open for membership. Features an indoor range, Smithtown area. Contact Mike: 588-2436, Ron: 981-2315.

EAST BAY ANGLERS NEW OFFICERS

"The following members were installed as officers for the current year: President: George Smith; Vice President: Bob Harder; Treasurer: Danny O'Neil, and Secretary: Richie Giannoccora.

The East Bay Anglers currently meet bi-monthly at the Salty Bay Yacht Club in Freeport on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 9 PM. Guests are always welcome. For further information, call Ken House at 785-2947."

BOATING

FLOTILLA 12-1 SAFETY COURSE

We present, on behalf of the State of New York, the Young Boatman's Safety Course. This course is mandatory for any youth between the ages of 10-16 who wishes to operate a motorboat alone. This course is completely free, and will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 42-18 31st Avenue, Astoria, Queens, on Mondays, starting March 27, 1978, from 8 PM to 10 PM. Call Ron Braut at (212) 726-1764 for information.

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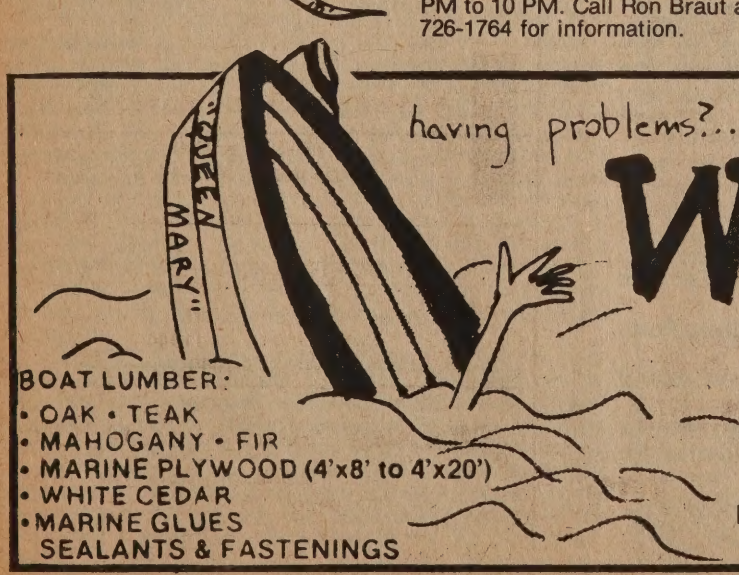

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N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation

1978 Long Island Trout Stockings

The number of trout to be stocked in 1978 is basically the same as 1977. The main changes are that we will be stocking more rainbow trout and less brook trout.

In addition, each fall the tidal portions of Beaverdam Creek in Brookhaven and the Connetquot in Oakdale are stocked with 3,000 and 10,000 brown trout fingerlings, respectively. Although they are called fingerlings because of their age (about 10-11 months) they average six inches in length.

Location of Ponds:

Avon Manor Pond, Amityville. Broadway to Avon Place. East on Avon Place to Lake Drive.

Canaan Lake, Patchogue. Sunrise Highway (Rt. 27) to New North Ocean Avenue. North on New North Ocean Avenue 6/10 mile to Shaber Road. West on Shaber Road 2/10 mile.

East Lake (Swan Lake), Patchogue. On north side of Montauk Highway (Rt. 27A) 8/10 mile east of Medford Avenue (Rt. 112).

Freeport Reservoir, Freeport. Meadowbrook Parkway to Babylon Tpke. (Exit M-7), west on Babylon Tpke., to first traffic light. Turn left at traffic light (Lakeview Ave.). Entrance to reservoir at south end of Lakeview Avenue.

Hard's Lake, Suffolk County Park, Southaven. Entrance gate located on north service road of Sunrise Highway between Yaphank Road and William Floyd Parkway. Boats available.

Kahlers Pond, East Moriches. On north side of Montauk Highway (Rt. 27A), between Center Moriches and East Moriches.

Lower Lake, Yaphank. On west side of Yaphank Road and north side of Long Island Expressway. Travelling east on LIE, get off at Exit 66. Turn left at light. Proceed 2/10 mile, turn right onto Long Island Avenue. Proceed one mile to traffic light, turn left onto Yaphank Road. Coming from eastern Long Island, get off LIE at Exit 67, turn right at light to Yaphank Avenue.

Massapequa Reservoir, Massapequa. Southern State Parkway to Exit 30 - south (Broadway). South on Broadway 2.1 miles. Turn east onto Brooklyn Avenue. Entrance to reservoir at end of Brooklyn Ave. Or Sunrise Highway (Rt. 27) to Broadway. North on Broadway, one block to Brooklyn Ave. Turn east onto Brooklyn Avenue. Entrance to reservoir at end of Brooklyn Avenue.

Mill Pond, Oyster Bay. West Main Street (W. Shore Road) and Lake Avenue.

Mill Pond, Sayville. North side of Rt. 27A just east of railroad overpass.

West Lake, Patchogue. On north side of Montauk Highway (Rt. 27A) 1.1 mile west of Medford Avenue (Rt. 112).

★STREAMS★

Name	Location & Sect. Stocked	Mi. Stocked	APPROXIMATE DATES By 4/1	By 5/1	By 5/15
Carlls River (Belmont Brk)	Bet. Argyle Lake in Babylon & Southards Pond in No. Babylon	0.7	500 BT	500 BT	
" "	No. Babylon bet. Southards Pond & Belmont Lake State Park	1.5	500 ST	500 ST	
" "	No. Babylon bet. Southards Pond & Phelps (Elds) lake	0.7	200 ST	200 ST	
Carmans River	Yaphank, bet. Upper Lake & Lower Lake	0.5	300 RT	250 RT	
" "	Yaphank above Upper Lake	0.6	100 RT		
" "	Southaven Suffolk Co. Pk., Special Fishing regulations	2.3	500 RT	500 RT	600 RT
Champlins Crk.	Islip, from Brookwood Hall Pond (Knapps Lk) upstream 1 mile	1.0	220 ST		
Nissequogue	Smithtown, Jericho Tp north 1.6 miles	1.6	2000 RT	2000 BT	
Orowoc Crk.	Islip, Moffit Blvd. north to Brook St.	1.3	420 ST		
Swan River	Patchogue from East (Swan) Lake upstream 1.2 miles	1.2	300 ST	240 ST	

★LAKES★

Name	Location	Acres	APPROXIMATE DATES by 4/1	by 4/7	by 5/1	by 5/15
Avon Manor Pond	Amityville	3	300 RT			
Canaan Lake	Patchogue	25		1200 RT	1000 BT	
East Lake (Swan Lake)	Patchogue	11		600 RT	500 BT	
Freeport Reservoir	Freeport	17		900 ST	800 BT	
Hard's Lake Suff. Co. Pk. Special Fishing Regulations	Southaven	42	1600 RT		1600 RT	1800 RT
Kahlers Pond	East Moriches	13	650 RT			
Lower Lake	Yaphank	26	700 RT		600 RT	
Massapequa Reservoir	Massapequa	20		1000 ST	1000 BT	
Mill Pond	Oyster Bay	7	400 RT		300 BT	
Mill Pond	Sayville	6		600 RT		
West Lake	Patchogue	20		1000 RT	1000 BT	

KEY: ST - Brook (speckled) Trout
RT - Rainbow Trout
BT - Brown Trout

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

HOLD THAT BOTTOM!

★ *Part Two* ★

Last week we covered the importance of presenting your bait within the "feeding zone" of the fish you are seeking when bottom fishing. If a fish does its natural feeding within three feet of the bottom and you hang your bait four or five feet off the bottom, you just aren't going to catch very many fish. So the first thing you must do is tie your bottom rig so that the bait is presented at the correct depth. But even once this relatively simple feat has been accomplished, you still have problems because even a correctly tied rig will only produce when the sinker is on the bottom. Current, wind and sea conditions can all contribute to making "holding the bottom" a difficult chore, the culprit being the water resistance of the line you are using—as we discussed at length last week. In this second half of "Hold That Bottom!" we are going to discuss the fishing techniques that can be employed to overcome these problems so you will be able to keep your bait in the feeding zone and catch more fish—which is the name of the game.

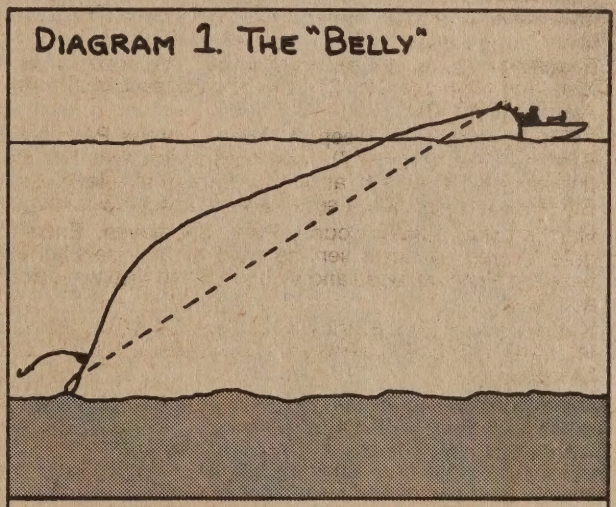
To set the scene, let's suppose that you are fishing in a strong current, in about forty feet of water. You send your baited rig to the bottom, lock the reel when you feel the sinker touch bottom. After about a minute you lift the tip of your rod about a foot to see if you have a bite, then lower the rod tip again to get the rig back on the bottom. The only problem is you keep lowering the rod tip until it is touching the water and you still haven't felt the sinker touch bottom again. Now, if you knew for certain that the sinker was only six inches or a foot off the bottom you'd be okay, because your bait would still probably be within the feeding zone. But the fact of the matter is that you can't possibly tell whether the sinker is six inches or six feet off the bottom, so rather than take a chance you let out more line until the sinker connects again. The lifting procedure is repeated with the loss of the bottom again, so more line is let out, etc. Eventually the rig is a good distance from the boat—which presents new problems.

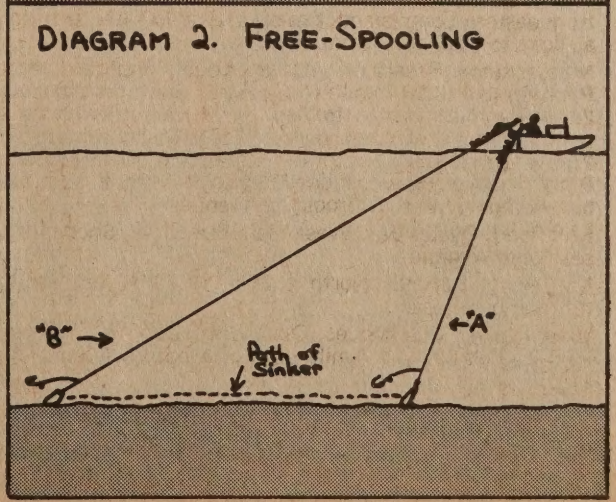
Once your rig is too far away from the boat, you have the problem of the "belly" in the line that will make it difficult to set the hook on a fish. As a result of the water resistance of the current pushing against the monofilament line, a large belly will form in the line as shown in Diagram 1. This belly actually creates two problems that must be overcome. First, it will make it that much more difficult to feel a fish pecking or playing with the bait. And second, even if you do feel the bite, the belly makes it difficult to set the hook on the fish because before you can make a good "strike" with the rod, you must take up the slack line of the belly before there is really any force behind it. You should be able to get the idea of what I mean by the dashed-line in Diagram 1, which shows how much you will have to straighten out the line in order to set the hook with any force. Because many anglers aren't even aware of this problem, an unusually high percentage of fish are usually "dropped" when fishing in strong currents. So think back to the last time you had the "dropsies"—more than likely it was when the current was running strong and you were having trouble holding the bottom.

Another reason you have a problem setting the hook is the amount of line you have out. Even the best of monofilament lines have a stretch factor of twenty percent before breaking. And the more line you have out, the more stretch the line has. If you have to put 150 feet of line out in order to hold bottom, the line will have about thirty feet of stretch to it—which means you will be trying to set the hook with a rubber band. One additional problem: if you are using a chum pot while bottom fishing (which you **should** be most of the time), you will be defeating your own purpose by fishing far away from the boat. What's the sense of filling a chum pot with all kinds of smelly things to attract the fish to your boat, and then fish with your rig a hundred or more feet away from the fish you have attracted?

The solution for overcoming most of the problems created by a strong current is to fish with the reel on free-spool. Locking the spool makes the line go taut, allowing water resistance to do its dirty work. But by keeping the reel on free-spool and slowly letting out line to compensate for this water resistance, the line will not get the "belly" in it that we have discussed. Look at Diagram 2, and follow the angler and the movement of the angler from right to left. He lets his line go down close to the boat, at point "A." As he feels the current pushing on the line, he slowly allows line to peel off the revolving spool and pass through his fingers so that he has a good "feel" of the sinker and a possible bite. As the line is let out, the sinker rolls along the bottom in the path of the dashed line.

Notice that it never rises off the bottom and out of the feeding zone of the fish. When the line reaches point "B," the fisherman retrieves his line and starts the process over again. Notice that the line is always straight, with no belly to overcome when striking the fish. When using this technique to hold bottom it is important to concentrate on what you are doing. First, point the rod **directly** at the line so that the line is continuously straight from the point that it leaves the spool to the sinker. If possible, try to make the line travel through the center of the rod's guides so that it isn't even touching them. This gives you a direct line between you and a biting fish, allowing you much more sensitivity than if the line leaves the tip of your rod by making a sharp turn. Also, be sure **not** to raise the tip of your rod while letting line out—this will only raise the sinker off the bottom with nothing gained. The only time the tip of the rod should be raised is when you are setting the hook.





FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

Thoughts and Questions about Striped Bass— 1978 and Beyond

A RECENT PROPOSAL! At a recent striped bass information meeting that was sponsored by SOS (Save Our Stripers), the concept of increasing the legal limit for striped bass from the present sixteen inch to twenty-six inches was thrown out for discussion and comment. SOS has indicated the possibility of drafting legislation for the twenty-six inch limit in New York State.

PROS AND CONS: The Long Island Fisherman travels around Long Island in the winter giving free slide show presentations to fishing clubs and organizations in the New York Metropolitan Area, and one of the most popular shows this winter has been the striped bass presentation. Needless to say, fishermen have shared their ideas and opinions about the recent decline in the availability of striped bass. Since the proposal for the twenty-six inch, we have received a good deal of feedback from local bass fishermen. Since saltwater fishermen are a diverse and independent group of individuals, the comments have varied and many thoughts have been suggested to us that are thought-provoking and need consideration.

PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY. The sixteen inch limit was legislated in New York State under the premise that by protecting the species until that size, it would allow the bass to reproduce once before they were harvested. This is a sound management concept and one that is used in many states in the attempted management of many species. Different states have legislated different size limits. For example, New Jersey has a twenty inch limit; New York sixteen inches, and in Maryland it is a twelve inch limit with other seasonal restrictions. Until recently, the concept of coastal management was not a popular one and fishermen in different states seemed to find differing legal limits acceptable for the most part. However, this seems to be changing and sport fishermen realize the value of coastal management for a species like the striped bass which eagerly migrates through the waters of many states. Thus, the fishermen that we have talked to suggest that the real issue should be a close look at the coastal management of the species. They point out that Chesapeake Bay fishermen (commercial and sport) may harvest up to ninety percent of a year class before the fish make their first migration out of that estuary. Thus, although some of the bass fishermen that we talked to were in favor of the twenty-six inch limit, they were not in favor of conserving the fish in New York so that southern harvests can mushroom! One burly fisherman told us point blank: "Whatever laws are passed about the striped bass will only work if the rules apply up and down the Coast!" Unfortunately, the best information that anyone can come up with at this time, suggests that southern fishermen might agree to a fourteen or sixteen inch limit if we pass a twenty-six inch limit in New York and the other New England states. Another fisherman said: "I'm all for the conservation of striped bass, but I'll be damned if I'm going to throw back twenty-five inch fish so that some clown in Maryland can sell a couple of thousand pounds of fifteen or seventeen inch bass. That's not conservation—that's a joke!"

CONCERN FOR BASS UNIVERSAL AMONG BASS FISHERMEN! The overwhelming majority of the letters that we have received have expressed concern about the declining abundance of this species, and the few who failed to mention it did so because the thrust of their letters concentrated on another aspect of the situation. Some of these letters have pointed out that bait and tackle dealers, manufacturers, tourist industries, and other people involved in the fishing industry have felt the economic—if not the recreational—downturns of a declining stock. One tackle store owner confided in us: "I've got expensive plugs gathering dust on my shelves because there haven't been enough bass around to use up that tackle. Sure, guys like to catch blues and other species, but when it comes to six and seven dollar lures, there had better be a prospect for a bass before they'll put down their bread." An ardent surf fisherman who specializes in bass said: "Bass fishing is more than a pastime to me: it is a way of life."

TURNING TO THE MAILBAG! We have received a number of letters supporting the twenty-six inch limit for bass. One inshore boat fisherman wrote: "I can get along without keeping the smaller bass if I know that there'll be more bass to catch. The twenty-six inch limit may not be a cure-all, but I like it!" Another reader wrote, "...in spite of these comments, the twenty-six inch limit should help to preserve the species." We have received other letters which have presented another point of view. Some of the letters have expressed an opposition to the twenty-six inch limit. One reader said: "I think that we have to remember that (not all) fishermen are alike. Fishermen differ by size, hair color, age, and also according to limitations placed upon their fishing by their jobs, family, and community. I'm an executive and the only chance that I get to fish is on weekends. In order to have consistent success with large bass, an angler has to put a lot of time in, as well as to master the other factors that define the skill and the sport. So my chances of catching a lot of big bass are less than those enjoyed by some fishermen who work regular hours and probably greater than other fishermen who work even crazier hours than me. The point that I'm trying to make," the reader reiterated, "is that if I can't keep a few fish over sixteen inches, then I probably will be able to keep few, if any, bass." Another reader wrote, "...such legislation will create an elite group: the guys who have the time and know how to catch big bass."

WE ALL NEED A CHANCE! Another reader offered a different perspective. "Don't forget that today's beginner is tomorrow's sharpie. We all have to start somewhere. Will today's beginner ever get a chance to learn the ropes with a twenty-six inch limit?"

TWENTY-SIX INCH LIMIT: DEVIL OR ANGEL? From a scientific standpoint, coastal management of migratory species is the only approach that will bring consistent and long-range benefits to the fish and recreational fishing for those migratory species. Size limits are an effective part of any successful management plan, but should be based upon factors such as abundance, migratory patterns, seasonal patterns, the size at which the fish become sexually mature, and the effects of regional harvesting practices. Recently, such a coastal management attempt has been started. Representatives are being selected from East Coast states under the State Federal Management Plan instituted by the National Marine Fisheries Service, to serve on a committee that will attempt to draft a coastal bass management plan. The program has been contracted to the State of Maryland by NMFS and Maryland will administer the program.

THE FLOW OF INFORMATION! In future issues of The Fisherman, we will publish the names and addresses of the representatives to the State Federal Management Plan, so that our readers can forward their opinions on striped bass management to those people who will be trying to develop such a plan.

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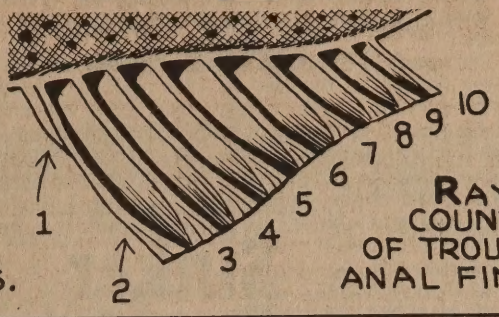
TROUT IDENTIFICATION

BY FRED GUARDINEER

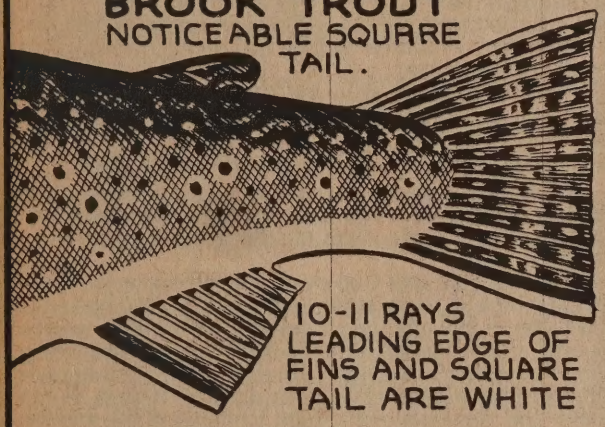
THE TROUT SEASON OPENS IN APRIL FOR MOST ANGLERS WHO USUALLY CAN READILY IDENTIFY THEIR "PUT AND TAKE" CATCH SUCH AS STOCKED BROOKIES, RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES. WHEN IN DOUBT, COUNT THE RAYS IN THE ANAL FIN AND NOTICE THE SHAPE OF THE TAIL. STREAM TROUT HAVE SQUARE TAILS WHILE THE BIG LAKE AND OCEAN MIGRATORS HAVE FORKED & CURVED TAILS.



RAY COUNT OF TROUT ANAL FIN

BROOK TROUT

NOTICEABLE SQUARE TAIL.

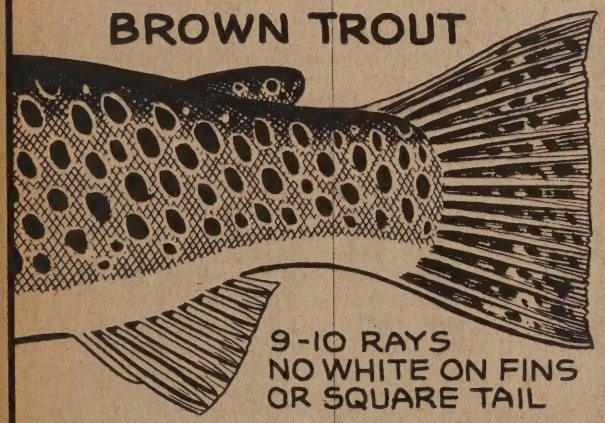


10-11 RAYS LEADING EDGE OF FINS AND SQUARE TAIL ARE WHITE

RAINBOW TROUT

10-12 RAYS NO WHITE EDGE ON FINS OR SQUARE TAIL

BROWN TROUT



9-10 RAYS NO WHITE ON FINS OR SQUARE TAIL

LAKE TROUT

10-11 RAYS NOTICEABLY FORKED TAIL

ATLANTIC SALMON

9 RAYS SLIGHT FORK IN TAIL

COHO SALMON

13-15 RAYS CURVED TAIL

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SPRING FLOUNDER PRIMER

★ Part Two ★

Last week we discussed the necessary tackle required to best enjoy spring flounder fishing. The correct hooks and their sizes, plus how to tie the all-important tandem rig and the reasons for its use were also noted. This week, terminal tackle, baits and chum are in order.

The adage of the bottom fisherman has always been: the less hardware, the better. This applies whether the fishing is being done for flounder, cod, blackfish, or what-have-you. Actually, the bottom fisherman needs nothing more elaborate than the correct hook and a suitable sinker to put fish in the bucket. But there are several items of terminal hardware experienced flounder anglers use when making up their rigs that do go to make for easier fishing. One of these is the three-way swivel.

The purpose of the three-way swivel, or any swivel for that matter, is to prevent line twist—nothing more. But when flounder fishing, conditions that cause line twist are rarely encountered. So why use the swivel? Simple. It is a great help in preventing those hooks from snarling around the main line when casting. Of course, if you are fishing from a boat, there is rarely an excuse for casting; but when shore fishing, you'll find the use of a three-way swivel has its value.

There is only one objection I find to using a three-way swivel. They are a time-consuming pain in the neck to put on the main line. And if the day is nippy, and the fingers numb, forget it. Should you break off a rig, you'll never be able to replace that three-way without first doing a bit of choice cussing.

Fishermen, however, do use three-way swivels with success and that's why I've mentioned them. But there are two other items of hardware which I believe are not only better, but more convenient to use. These simple little gadgets are the sinker snap and the "Quick-Rig."

The sinker snap is easily identified. It has an oversized loop on one end and a sliding safety-lock arrangement. It is a simple matter to place both sinker and tandem rig together. I've been using sinker snaps off and on for a long time and can't remember ever casting this rig and having the hooks twist around the main line. You can also be sure of one thing when casting a sinker snap: your hooks will always lie flat out on bottom.

Incidentally, when sinker snaps are unavailable, you can make do with an oversized snap swivel. Just make sure it is large enough to accommodate both sinker and rig without binding.

I do think, though, that the use of a sinker snap is more advantageous in the early part of the spring flounder run when—due to the effect of cold water—flounder are more sluggish in their approach to bait. It is then when sensitive line control is not so important, for many fish are caught on the lift. You'll find flounder caught under these conditions are more apt to suck in the bait rather than nip at it and go, as they do later in the season when the water is warmer. (See, as I told you in Part One, there is more to flounder fishing than meets the eye.)

Later in the season—say from mid-April on—it is best to use the "Quick-Rig." This simple little lead-based gadget is easily placed on the main line, using no knot whatsoever. It can be raised or lowered without re-rigging, which means you don't leave behind potential tackle-fouling loops. Of course, you can always cut off the rig and assemble it again, but why bother when the use of "Quick-Rigs" avoids this time-consuming chore. You'll find, too, that using the Quick-Rig gives the fisherman just as much sensitive control as if he had tied in his rig with a double-overhand loop.

"Quick-Rigs" are available in any well-stocked tackle shop. They cost but pennies and should be in every sinker bouncer's tackle bag.

Further Thoughts on Keeping Mussels on the Hook.

When the subject of bait for spring flounder is discussed, there isn't one experienced flattie fisherman who would fail to agree with me that fresh bank mussels are the top bait.

It has been said that God made the roses and the Devil put the thorns on them. Well, undoubtedly, the good Lord made the succulent bank mussel appealing to the flounder, but fishermen have the devil's own time keeping them on the hook. I've found, though, that if the hook is first run through the narrow ribbon and tongue of the mussel and then wrapped around the hook shank and the hook woven through again, it will stay on long enough to entice a flounder.

Some fishermen toughen mussel by steaming or salting. These methods work up to a point, but not as well as when the mussel is left in its natural state. My advice is to learn to keep fresh mussel on the hook the best way you can. It will pay in the end.

Experiment With New Baits:

It is a known fact that most good fishermen are great for experimenting. Nothing fazes them. Several years ago one of these fellows dyed a batch of clams to see what would happen when offered to flounder.

What happened was this fisherman practically revolutionized flounder fishing. Fishermen found flounder just could not resist dyed clam. In fact, when first used, there were several years in a row in which those fishermen

Early May means good flounder fishing...especially in the cool water near ocean inlets.

who failed to use dyed clam often fare poorly indeed.

Lately, however, for some unknown reason, the flounders' interest in dyed clam has cooled. Not to the extent that they don't work; just that they do not produce as well as when first introduced. I wish I knew why. But there are still days when fishermen without dyed clams come off a poor second.

Red and yellow dyed clam work best. I have found that red is best to use when the water is less than twenty feet deep, and that yellow will take flounder at any depth. But as flounder are finicky feeders at times, I believe for those fishermen with an interest in dyed clam, it is best to carry a supply of both.

If you'd like to try dyed clam—and I think you should—here's the way I do it. I first slice the clam into bait-sized pieces, which in this instance means pieces about one-and-a-half inches long. I most always use soft clam necks. If I can get fresh skimmer, I'll use that in preference because it has a more natural suppleness. But whatever kind I use, I make certain to cut it lengthways in such a manner that some of the soft stomach remains with it. This is what flounder relish.

Baits are then placed in a suitable container: one of those plastic tubs used for whipped topping or potato salad is good. Food dye in the color of your choice is added slowly, drop by drop, and constantly stirred with a small stick. If you do this on the kitchen table, be advised to use plenty of newspaper to catch any drippings or splatterings, else you-know-who will look upon you with a jaundiced eye. We poor fishermen are in the dog house enough as it is.

Prepared in this manner, dyed clam will keep surprisingly well when properly refrigerated or frozen as it seems the food dye acts as a mild preservative. The longer you keep the bait, however, the deeper the color will become; therefore, it is important not to over-dye. If this precaution is not taken, over-dyed red bait will almost turn black—so be careful.

The process of dying clams for bait takes but minutes and when you've finished you can store the container in the refrigerator overnight, or place it in the deep freeze if you don't intend to fish for several days. You'll find frozen bait becomes soft when thawed, but not so soft that it will not stay on the hook. Bait in this condition is what flounder go for. Dyed bait that is left overnight in the refrigerator will soften to some extent, but not nearly as much as when frozen first.

There is one important thing to bear in mind when fishing with dyed clam. The dye has tendency to leach if kept on the hook too long. Therefore, it is always best to change bait when it begins to pale. Don't discard the leached-out pieces. Just return them to the container, stir a bit, and they'll absorb more dye.

We come now to the use of worms. I might as well tell you that I rarely use these popular baits. I put my faith in clam and mussel except at the tail-end of the season—sometime in May—when blood and sandworm truly come into their own. Not that you won't catch flounder with worms before then. This is an idiosyncrasy of mine, I suppose, but it is how I fish for flounder. I can also tell you that there have been days in spring when I wished I had a few worms along, days when my soft clams left much to be desired.

I'm sure you've heard that bloodworms in some areas are more effective than sandworms—and vice versa. There's a lot to this, but don't go overboard on it. Always bring along some of each and let the fish decide. You'll have fewer headaches, I assure you.

Chumming is important when flounder fishing. It can make or break your day. The best way is to fill a chum pot with cracked mussel or clam and lower it on bottom and bounce it occasionally to disperse the "goo" into the current. Lacking this, and if the current isn't too strong, you can crack several whole mussels and toss them near your line. Soft clam will also work, but mussels are best.

Some fishermen use rice for chum and some use canned corn, each sprinkled liberally around the boat. Of the two, I believe corn to be best.

Next week we'll discuss what this series has been leading up to: the actual catching of flounder.

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Shown: Penn Ultralight 716 Spinfisher

Surf Side

with Russ Wilson

STRIPER KILLER SUPREME—
★ RIGGING EELS ★

ONE: First step push squid hook through eel's head. This is extremely important. Many fishermen hook squid on later, and find the hook has cut through the running line. By hooking squid first, this mishap cannot occur.

TWO: Next insert rigging needle one inch behind vent, and put through eel body so point protrudes out of eel's mouth. When properly done, rig should look as in photo.

THREE: Tie in tail hook to loop in rigging line, and continue pushing needle on through eel's body. Running line will come out of eel's mouth, and should be left long so it can be tied to squid later.

FOUR: Push eye of tail hook into eel's body, and tie down at point where eye of hook is centered. This will keep hook from turning as eel swims and when a big striper is hooked, the tail hook will stay in position.

FIVE: Now move to front end of eel and tie eel to squid hook. Best way to do this is to make two ties: one in front of the hook, and another tie just in back. When done correctly, tie will form X around hook shank.

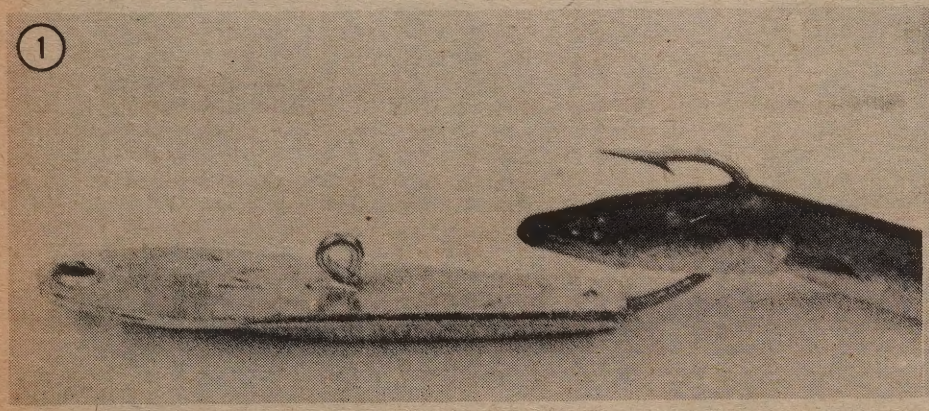
SIX: At this point rig should look as shown in photo. Tail hook is set, and front hook is tied to eel's body so rig will swim correctly.

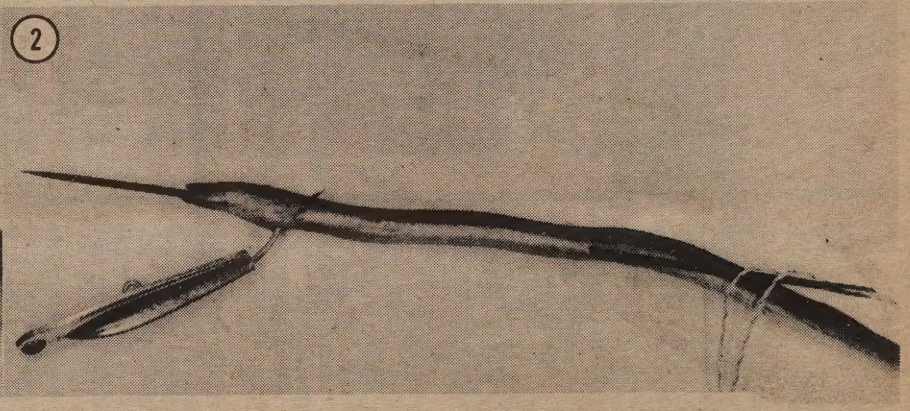
SEVEN: Eel's mouth must be tied shut, so water does not push mouth open as rig is retrieved. Make sure to get the tie just ahead of eel's eyes. This tie also serves as a stopgap. When correctly done, the tie keeps line from tail hook tight.

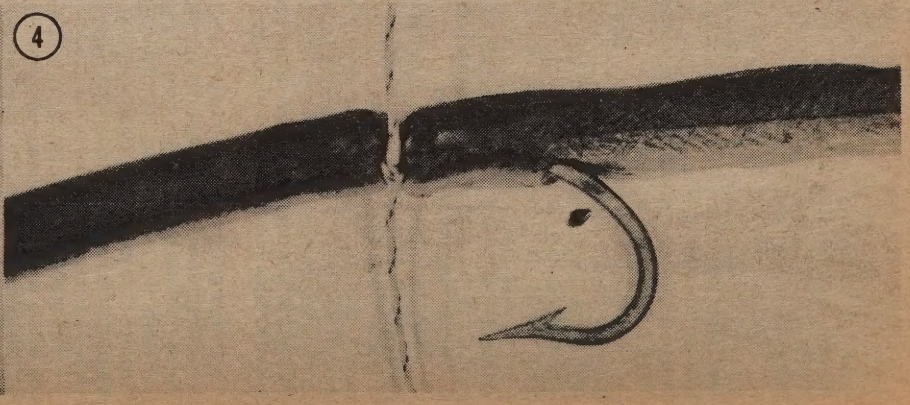
EIGHT: Final step in making rig is to tie running line to hook of the squid. I use two ties: one just in front of hook eye, and another just behind the eye. This tie must be tight as possible and yet small enough so no line hangs to the side, which could impair swimming action of rig. The two-tie method of rigging ensures no fish will pull tail hook out of rig and thereby escape.

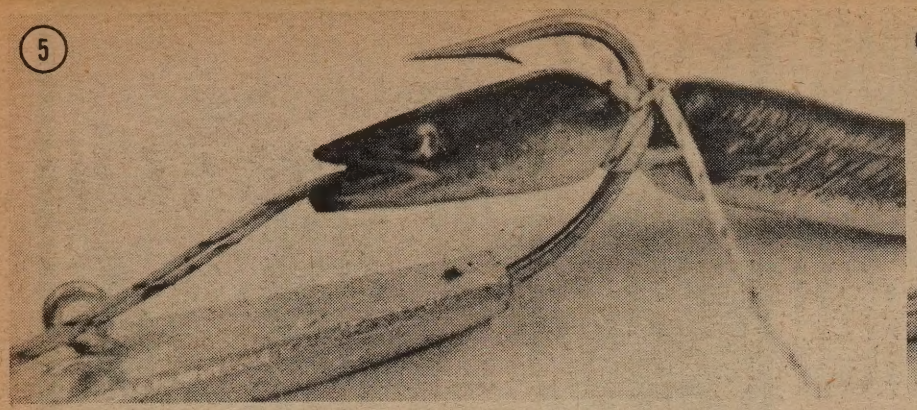
NINE: Trim all lines, and singe ends with match, cigar butt, or cigarette. Nubs formed by singeing are added insurance against a knot failing when a trophy fish is hooked.

TEN: Alternate method of tying eel to squid is shown in this photo. I prefer the other method, but many successful striper fishermen find this way of rigging is easier. Either method will work, so it is only a matter of which type rigging appeals.









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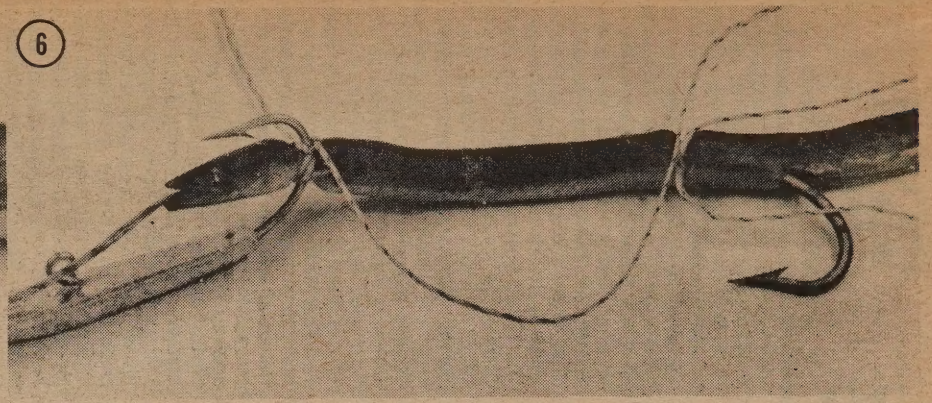

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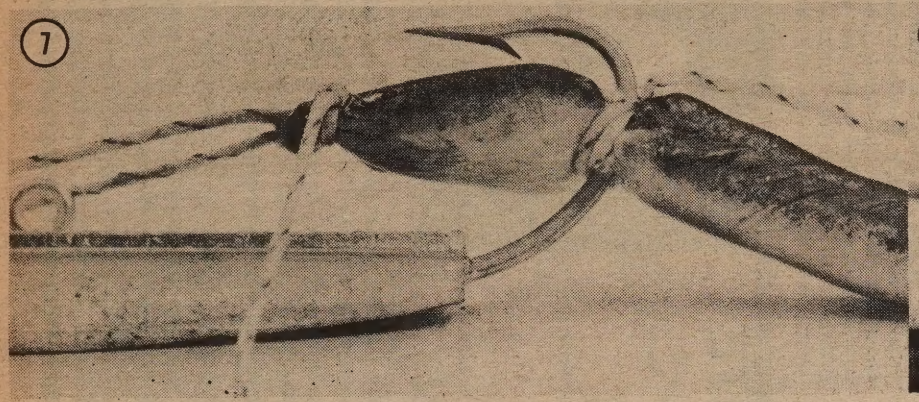

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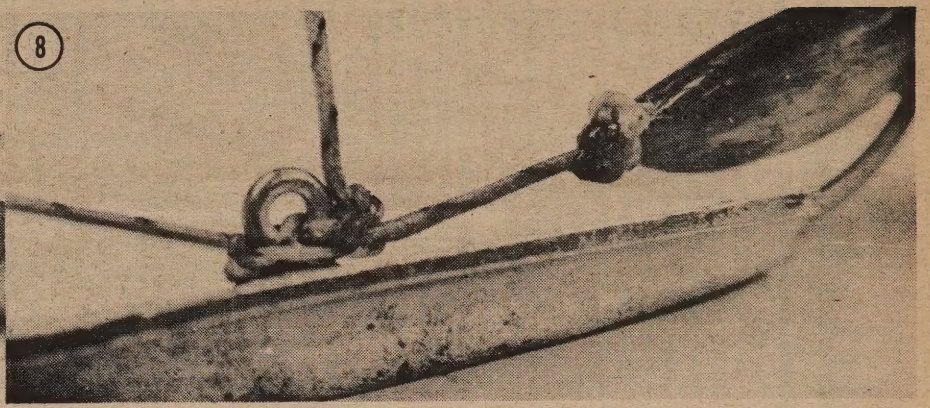

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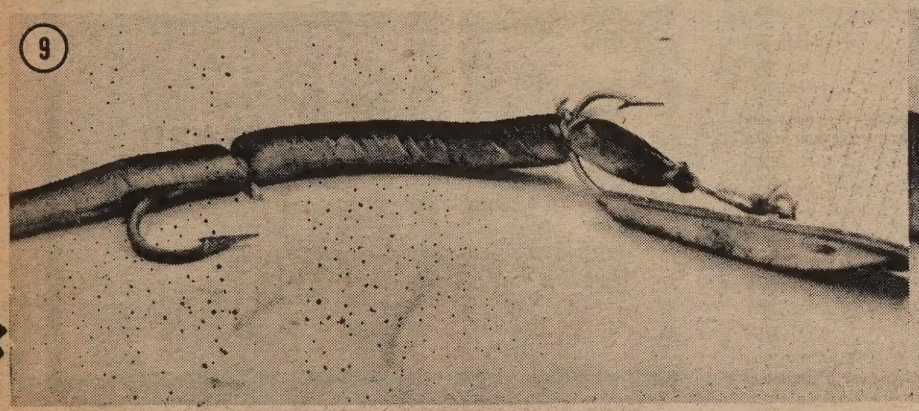

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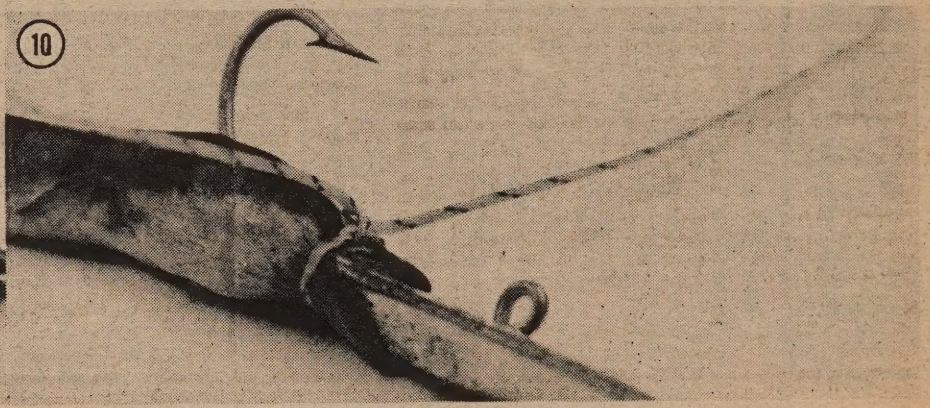

10

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Sand Eel—Friend or Foe?

After last year, every angler should be aware of the effect of sand eels on the sport fisheries. The superabundance of these skinny little fish last season resulted in the largest run of pollock off Block Island in many years—and even a significant improvement in the spring codfishing. All summer, blues and weaks fed happily in the Triangle off Montauk Point on a seemingly endless supply of sand eels. Despite the low population levels of striped bass, Montauk anglers had outstanding daytime fishing for that species last fall as the bass fed all day on sand eels in the rips. Night fishing folded up altogether in October, as the bass seemed satisfied to gorge themselves on sand eels during the daylight hours. Anglers in western Long Island and along the Jersey coast found their bluefish far offshore and responding only to diamond jigs and bananas—once again the effect of feeding on sand eels!

Actually, the sand eel isn't an eel at all and is more properly referred to as sand launce (Ammodytes americanus). The larvae of that species has completely dominated plankton surveys conducted by NMFS Northeast Fisheries Center for the past four years. By the spring of 1977, the average catch of larval sand launce was forty-three times greater than in the spring of 1966 and four times greater than in the spring of 1974! Not only have their numbers increased, but also their distribution. This is true throughout the Middle Atlantic Bight and on George's Bank.

Our first reaction as anglers is to say "great." After all, we've seen the superabundance of sand launce result in great concentrations of even relatively scarce species. Best of all, when they're on sand launce these species will respond readily to jigs and umbrella rigs—no bait needed, unless you can obtain sand launce! Our little friend was probably the best bait for fluke at Montauk last summer, and Tin Can Ground sharpies did a job on the bass with live sand eels. Without a doubt, the sand launce is a most important forage species and the predators are loading up on them. There is, however, a fly in the ointment. Sand launce seem to so dominate the winter/spring ichthyoplankton community, that larvae of other species spawned at the same time may not be able to compete—a situation that could result in a succession of poor spawning years. Among the species that may be affected are the Atlantic herring and the cod. Certainly, there has been a precipitous decline in herring stocks and recent surveys indicate an almost total absence of larvae. In the case of both herring and cod, there has also been heavy fishing pressure on the adults, and the combination of that fishing, plus the competition of the sand launce with their larvae could result in serious long-term problems for those species.

During the past decade, a fifty percent decline in the biomass off the northeast coast has been observed. This has been largely attributed to the intense fishing efforts of the foreign fleets; yet there is a good possibility that there really hasn't been such a change in the biomass. Scientists in the North Sea have come to a similar conclusion for their area. They feel that a given body of water has a certain carrying capacity and, barring drastic changes in water quality, will always support a given biomass. The kicker is that the composition of that biomass can change completely. Heavy fishing pressure in the North Sea has changed the biomass from two-thirds commercially valuable predators (mackerel, herring, cod, etc.) to two-thirds small, almost valueless species (sand launce, sculpins, etc.). Unfortunately, the same thing appears to be happening here. The fifty percent decline in biomass may be simply the observed effect of overfishing on the commercially valuable predators—while sand launce, sculpins, and skates fill in the void. Since the trawl surveys which are used to determine population levels use mesh sizes too large to capture sand launce, the overall estimates of biomass haven't been that accurate and it's hard to make valid comparisons.

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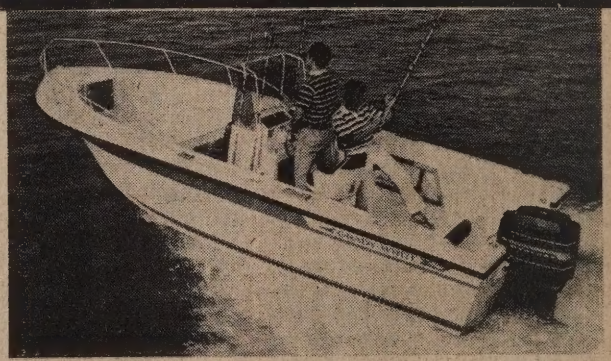

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Now that the National Marine Fisheries Service is conducting plankton surveys on a regular basis, we should get better information as to spawning success and future year classes. Just how accurate this technique can be was illustrated in 1974 when the catch of croaker larvae in the Mid-Atlantic Bight increased ninety percent over the previous year. Since then, the catch of adult croakers has increased tremendously, resulting in the best fishing for that species in about twenty years. On the other hand, the paucity of herring larvae bodes ill for that already scarce species. There's little better news on cod, haddock, and pollock, as low levels of larvae of those species were found on George's Bank where concentrations of sculpins and skates (both commercially under-utilized species) have shown sharp increases.

Whether there is a direct relationship between the abundance of sand launce, sculpins, and skates and the decline of more desirable species is a matter of speculation at the present time. However, the factor of competition for food at every stage in any species' life can't be ignored—and the big don't always win. Freshwater anglers are well aware of the fact that stunted sunfish and perch regularly take over ponds and lakes from bass and other higher predators by simply overwhelming them with numbers. The adult predators live to a ripe old age feeding on the small fish, but their offspring never make it to adulthood and, eventually, the lake is totally taken over by the undesirable species that haven't been fished hard while the higher predators were. The same basic facts of life apply in the sea, and marine biologists will be studying this situation closely during the next few years.

Fifty Percent Observer Coverage On Foreign Fleets in 1977

The National Marine Fisheries Service reports fifty percent coverage with observers on foreign ships fishing off the northeast coast in 1977. A total of 202 foreign vessels participated in the fishery, with 101 receiving observers. Coverage ranged from thirty-seven percent for the squid fishery to fifty-eight percent for herring, and seventy-five percent for hake. Twenty-one percent of the total vessel days were covered by observers. This program not only ensures that fishing regulations are adhered to, but also enables NMFS to more accurately check foreign catch reports. The American observers are paid by the vessels they sail aboard.

Summary of Enforcement in First Year of 200 Mile Limit

The Coast Guard reports that 376 citations (written warnings) were issued during the first full year of the 200 Mile Limit Law (March 1, 1977-Feb. 23, 1978). Those citations were distributed among 203 vessels of the following nationalities: USSR-106; Spain-99; Japan-29; Italy-16; Bulgaria-2; East Germany-3; West Germany-2; Poland-4; France-1; Cuba-2; Mexico-2, and U.S.-110.

More serious were the 160 violations issued to 100 different vessels. These can result in civil penalties of up to $25,000 for each offense. Once again, American fishermen led the way with 57 violations—closely followed by the Soviets with 55. Other nationalities with violations were Spain-41; Italy-10; Japan-3; Poland-3, and West Germany-1. During the first year of enforcement of the law, the Coast Guard proved that it meant business and foreign violations have dropped rapidly as a result. Unfortunately, American commercial fishermen have often proven to be more of a problem than their foreign counterparts. Hopefully, they, too, will recognize the need for conservation regulations designed to bring back fisheries which, in the long run, is entirely in their own best interests.

200 Mile Law Results in Few Foreign Vessels

According to the Coast Guard, there were only thirty foreign vessels fishing off the northeast coast on February 23 of this year. That contrasts with the 137 that were fishing in our area last February, just before the law became effective!

American Catch Up In 200 Mile Fisheries Zone

Preliminary figures compiled by the National Marine Fisheries Service indicate that New England landings were up about 20,000,000 pounds worth—about $25,000,000 more than the previous year to American commercial fishermen. This was at least partially due to increased availability resulting from the 200 Mile Limit Law. Indeed, the catch could have been even higher but for conservation restrictions on cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder catches.

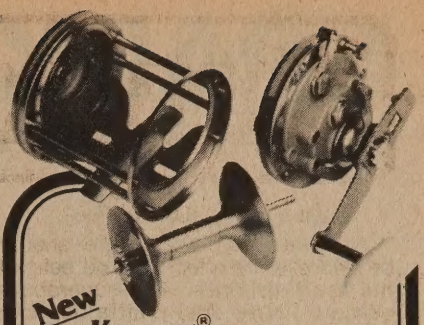
JAMAICA BAY

(Continued from page 23.)

He keeps worms alive and happy by dangling the box in the water from a stern cleat. The worms will last over a month and you can be sure you'll have bait when you need it. Sand worms keep well this way too, but don't mix the two varieties, as they don't get along.

Mussels and hard clams (not skimmers) can be kept alive indefinitely by placing them in plastic milk crates and submerging them. Just dangle them from a cleat and remember to take the box out of the water before you leave the dock.

So don't cross Jamaica Bay off your list of potential blackback hotspots. The fish are waiting for you. Now all that's left to be done is to go out and find them.



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SPARK PLUG LURES

by Robert Risotto

Have you just finished doing your part to ease the energy shortage by tuning up the family car? Or have you just spent some time getting the boat motor ready for another fishing season? But wait—those worn-out spark plugs you removed and are about to toss in the trash can may still have some life left in them that you didn't know about. Are you aware that you can turn those worn-out spark plugs into effective jigs? All that is required are some inexpensive, off-the-shelf hardware items and some spare time and they can help you fill your fish box next season. A few simple hand tools and a little ingenuity will make the job even easier than it already is. So, just follow these steps—or if you desire, add some of your own, and next season you may discover the pleasure of catching fish on a lure created with your own hands.

Materials Required:

Used spark plugs, staple tacks or brass wire, compression nuts or plastic furniture caps, split rings, treble or single hooks, five-minute epoxy, paint and basic hand tools.

Step 1. Of course, you do not have to wait till the next tune-up to begin making your jigs. Almost any automotive or marine service station has a variety of used spark plugs lying around that they will let you have just for the asking. In fact, the various size and weight plugs will give you greater flexibility and permit you to make several types of lures for any situation you may encounter. It also helps if you are friendly with the mechanic at your local service station. He can put the plugs aside for you before they get thrown out.

Step 2. After you have obtained the plugs, the next job is cleaning them. Any dirt or grease can be removed with a rag or paper toweling. A good method by which the area around the threads and electrodes can be cleaned, is to put the plug in a vise. Then by using a wire brush, preferably the rotary type that fits in your hand drill, brush the thread area until clean.

Step 3. Leaving the plug in the vise, take a strong pair of pliers or a hacksaw and remove the L-shaped side electrode. In most cases, the electrode will snap off clean with the base of the plug. If it does not, file what remains smooth.

Step 4. Using a small nail punch, chisel, or steel nail and a hammer, chip away the ceramic insulation from the center electrode. Removing about one-half inch of the insulation will leave a good size cavity in the base for cementing the hook hanger. Don't worry if the ceramic may be a little jagged, as this will provide the epoxy more surface area to adhere to, making the hook attachment stronger. It is also a good idea to wear some kind of safety glasses when chipping away at the electrode.

Step 5. With the plug still inverted in the vise, clip the center electrode even with the base of the plug and file it smooth.

Step 6. You can improve the appearance of the jig by covering the thread area. An easy way of doing this is to screw a compression nut onto the threads. (This is the type of nut used in home plumbing or automobiles.) At the same time, it will also add weight to the jig. However, these nuts come in limited sizes and will not fit all plugs—especially the metric and tapered seat variety. Since these nuts are generally made of brass they may be slightly undersized and forced on with a heavy wrench. The tough material of the plug will cut its own threads in the soft brass. The other alternative is to use small plastic caps, like the ones sold for furniture legs. These come in a variety of sizes and work quite well. The compression nut can be added at this time; but the plastic cap must be added later, after the hook hanger is in place.

Step 7. Now turn the plug over and drill a hole in the metal conductor at the top of the plug. This hole should be just large enough to allow the split ring to move without binding.

Step 8. Take the staple tack, or a length of brass wire bent in the shape of a "U" and place it in the cavity previously made in the bottom of the plug. Then fill the cavity with epoxy. Bending the tips of the "U" at right angles will add to the strength of the hook-hanger.

Step 9. If you are using the plastic caps to cover the thread area, now is the time to add them. Using a single-edge razor blade, cut a hole in the cap just large enough to allow the hook-hanger to fit through it. Then smear some epoxy on the threads and push the cap on.

Step 10. You are now ready to put the finishing touch on your jig. Actually, you can fish the spark plugs just as they are at this stage. I have caught several blues and school bass where the only finishing work I did on the plug was a thorough buffing of the exposed metal so as to give it a good shine. But, like any other type of lure, it is good to have several colors and variations available for different conditions. If you choose to paint the spark plugs, my own recommendation is that you use one of the various plastic base paints that is available on the market, such as Flecto's Varathane or Ferrothane. Though they cost a little more, they seem to be more durable than enamel. However, they are available only in a limited range of colors. If you choose to use spray paint, remember that several light coats will be less likely to chip, rather than one heavy coat. Whether you spray, dip, or brush paint your jigs, a light sanding of the ceramic and metal of the spark plug will give the paint better adhesion.

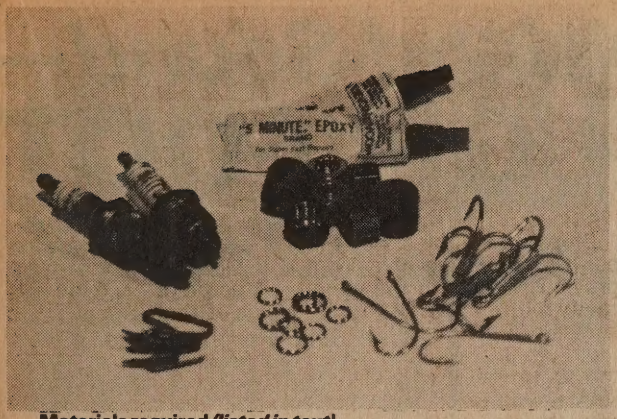
Another method that will probably outlast paint and also give a very attractive finish is to use heat shrinkable tubing (LIF, Feb. 3, 1978, Issue #5) for covering the thread and ceramic areas of the plug. While I have not as yet fished with the jigs I have made using this material, there is little doubt that it will provide the most durable covering of all. Using a dressed treble or single hook will help make the jig more appealing.

Fishing With Spark Plugs:

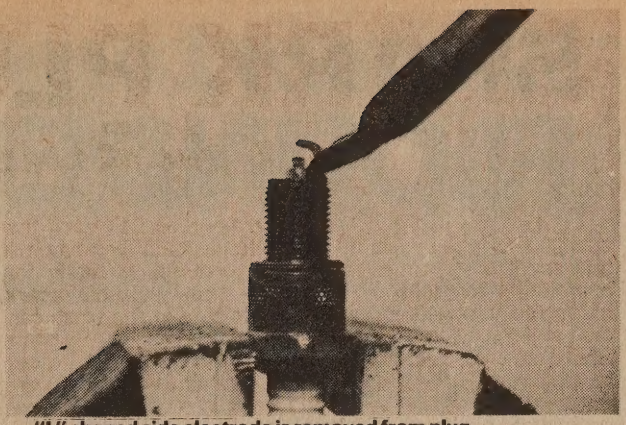
Your finished jigs are likely to be the oddest lures in your tackle box. However, any fish that will strike a regular jig will also hit your spark plug. The jig can be either cast or fished vertically. There are certain advantages and disadvantages to fishing with these jigs that you should know. First the advantages: the spark plug is inherently a good casting lure. If you examine it, you will notice that it is fairly streamlined. Also, notice that the majority of the weight is in the base of the jig where it is often placed in store-bought lures that claim good casting qualities. Next, look at the hexagon area (where you would apply your wrench when installing or removing the plugs). When worked slowly over a sand or mud bottom this area produces quite a commotion; the jig will dart and jump across the bottom kicking up a cloud of sediment. This quality often proved to be deadly with fluke. Add to these qualities, the low cost and it is easy to see the practicality of the spark plug.

If there is a disadvantage with these jigs, it is their weight. Most of your completed jigs will weigh between two and three ounces. This means that they will not be useful for fishing in deep water or swift currents. The only other disadvantage is a slight line twist that sometimes occurs, but this can be reduced or eliminated by using a swivel.

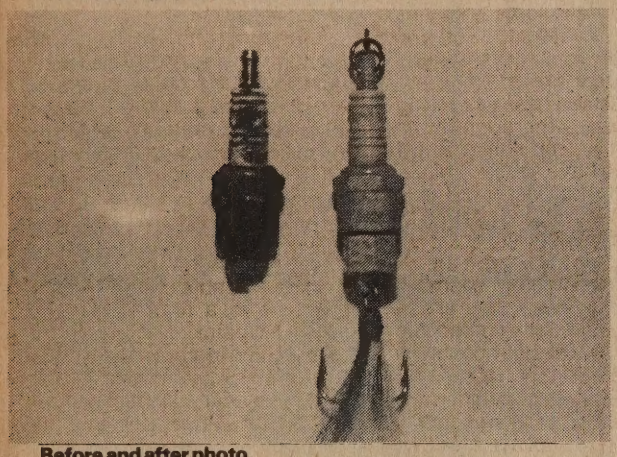
That's basically it! There are many combinations that will work. Finding the productive ones is up to the individual fisherman. The spark plug lure provides the fisherman with a good blank to practice his customizing and fishing skills. But by far, the best quality of the spark plug jig is evident when you land a fish on a lure you created yourself. Good Fishing!



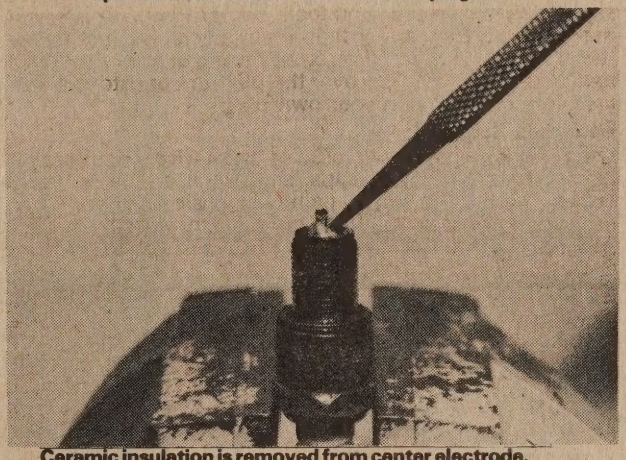
Materials required *(listed in text).*



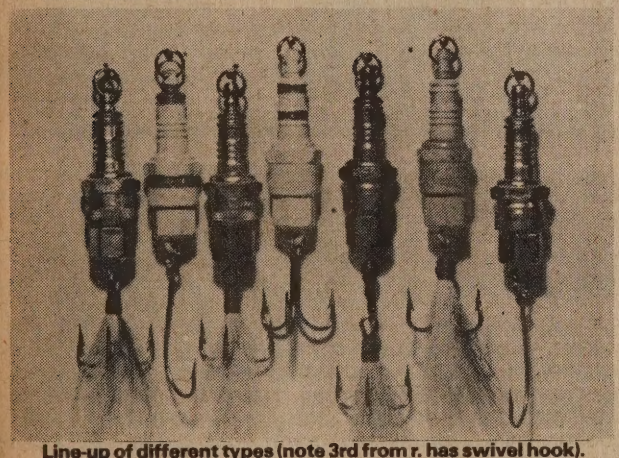
"L" shaped side electrode is removed from plug.



Before and after photo.

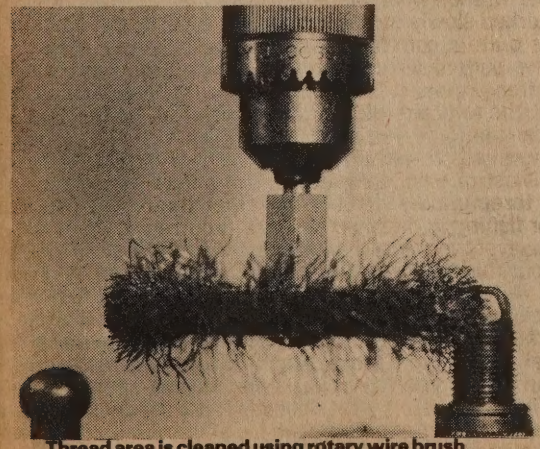


Ceramic insulation is removed from center electrode.

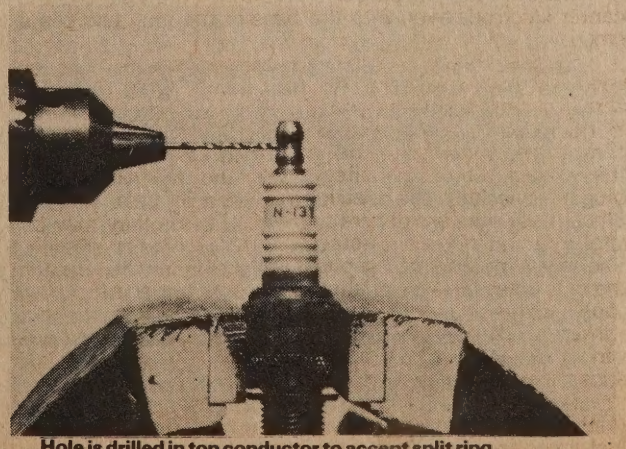


Line-up of different types (note 3rd from r. has swivel hook).

Center electrode is cut off flush with base of plug.



Thread area is cleaned using rotary wire brush.



Hole is drilled in top conductor to accept split ring.

Western Long Island Sound—
FLOUNDER ON FOOT

by Andy Regina

Traditionally, in The Bronx at least, opening day of the fishing season has always been St. Patrick's Day, give or take a week or two either way, according to the weather. If the winter was severe—as in 1976-77 when whole sections of the Sound froze solid enough to walk on—it goes without saying that fishing is going to be a little later; but if we're lucky enough to experience a mild winter, such as several years ago, you can start catching fish about the first week of March. It all hinges on water temperature. That, plus availability of food, are the two prime factors dictating the influx of fish into local waters. Of course, there are several other factors governing movement, such as water salinity, degree of pollution, bottom structure, barometric pressure, etc., but these are all secondary factors. If the water remains too cold (or too hot), and if there's no food for fish to eat, forget about everything else—they ain't going to be there anyway!

When the worst of the winter storms has passed, and air temperatures start hovering around the forty-five degree mark, we start to get that awful itching feeling again, called fishing fever, and nothing will cure it save a trip to the Sound. It doesn't make any difference if no boats are available yet either; if the party boats haven't started running yet, if the rowboat liveries are still not open, if your best friend hasn't gotten his boat launched yet—don't despair, you can still cure your fever by going fishing from shore. And fishing from shore at this time of year means fishing for flounder.

The first problem you have to overcome is obtaining bait. If your local bait shop is open, try to buy some sand worms if he has them yet—which might be questionable. If the bait shop is closed, or if worms are not attainable, try digging some worms on your own. It doesn't take too much trouble to get a few worms if you're willing to do a little work. Just get a pitchfork, get down to the water's edge at low tide, and dig in. And for God's sake, stay off private property unless you ask permission beforehand, and are granted access to the beach.

There are plenty of public places around that will yield some worms: the first and last beach at Orchard Beach, at the outside end of the jetties; the shore line between Orchard Beach and City Island; the shore line above Turtle Cove in Pelham Bay, or the shore line between the garbage dumps and Pelham Bay Bridge, leading into Eastchester Bay.

Joe Batista, with typical shore-caught flounder, taken at City Island in the spring opposite the Bronx shoreline leading to Rodman's Neck Police Pistol Range.

Just remember to take only a few worms: the fishing at this time of year from shore, is slow at best, so why take more bait than you can use? It makes more sense to not waste this precious commodity, but to practice conservation in the hopes of maintaining future stocks. If you are lucky enough to come across any tapeworms in your efforts, discard the sand worms and hoard those tapeworms—they're the best flounder bait in the world! Next time you clean any springtime flounders, inspect the belly cavities to determine what the fish were feeding on-chances are that you will spot tiny pieces of tapeworm, the flounder's favorite tidbit.

Now that you've gotten a few worms, where do you fish? The answer is obvious: right in the same places where you dug the bait! People always tell me that there's no more good spots from which to fish from shore—to which I say "Hogwash!" If you take the time and trouble to seek them out, you can find plenty of places from which to fish, and all ope to the public, too. The three place mentioned above for digging worms are just the beginning; Ferry Poin Park, under the Whitestone Bridge, i another spot to try, as is the are directly underneath and adjacent t the Throgg's Neck Bridge. The pier behind the high school in City Island are another place to try, as are th rocks at Country Club near Pelhar Bay in The Bronx. In the Hunt's Poin area, the pier at the end of Tiffan Street can produce at times, as ca the shore line in front of the gas tank at the foot of East 138th Street.

Of course, none of these places is a productive as fishing from a boat, bu that's the concession you have t make for curing your fever at an earl date. Just remember to take things a a leisurely rate, and enjoy the day ou of doors for a change, figuring tha the few fish you might be luck enough to catch are a bonus. If you st to use your head, you can find lot more places where you can fish fron shore. The jetty near Fort Totten i popular, as is the shore line along th Cross Island Parkway, at Little Nec Bay. Here you further stand a goo chance of catching a school striper, a this area is a well-known early seaso striper hotspot.

Okay, now you have some bait, and you know where to fish from, but you want to know how to go about it. First of all, let me say that although spinning seems to predominate the scene, but is by no means the only method to use. You can employ any tackle that suits your fancy: spinning, casting, or even drop lines. Many of our Latin neighbors employ the simple method of a length of line, wound around an empty beer can, taking advantage of the same principles on which spinning reels are based—line uncoiling from a fixed spool. And they usually do quite well also, casting and retrieving with the best of us, and catching their fair share of fish.

Terminal tackle is usually the standard double rig: two Chestertown hooks, about size eight, tied in tandem by attaching the leader of one hook halfway up the leader of the other and attached to the line directly above a bank sinker just heavy enough to hold bottom. Tides dictate where you should fish: if it is too low, you obviously cannot fish readily from a shore that has a gradual slope. This is the time to choose a spot that offers a decent depth of water within reasonable casting range; underneath one of the bridges is good then, because of the sharp dropoffs, as are any one of the piers or docks that can gain you access to a nearby channel where deep water is.

But don't discount low tide by any means, especially if it is a low, incoming tide. At this time, if you get out on a flat you can employ a trick that just might get you some fish, and that is the art of chumming. In cold water, especially in spring, flounders are lethargic, moving and feeding slowly, sort of browsing and grazing. You can whet their appetites, and perk up their curiousity, by the simple art of chumming—which is common practice from boats, but not too well known from shore. Simply get out as far as you can at low tide, and dig up an area that you will be fishing as the tide comes in. This will unearth tiny bits of worms and clams that will get the flatties hungry and they should pick up your worm baits soon enough. You can also crush mussels and steamer clams in this same area too, further adding to the flounder charm laid by digging up the flats.

We said that shore fishing at this time is a slow pick, but digging and chumming (actually, salting the area is the proper term for this type of chumming) will help speed the action. Another trick you can employ to increase your chances, is to slowly reel in your baited hooks along the bottom, a few feet at a time. stopping every few feet for a few minutes, to allow any interested flounders time to ingest your baits. This trick acts in much the same way that jigging your sinker on bottom does when you're in a boat. Here, not only do you disturb the bottom, unearthing tasty flounder tidbits, but you actually lay a scent trail on the bottom, which can lead any interested flounders right to your hooks.

Well, there you have it, short and sweet—the way to catch a few flounders, and cure that terrible itch, all in one shot. Get out there, making sure that you're dressed warmly enough and enjoy yourself as you get a jump on the season. And if you see a fat guy out there, with eyeglasses and a moustache, with an ultra-light spinning outfit in his hand, come over and say hello. That will be me and my name is Andy. See you out there!

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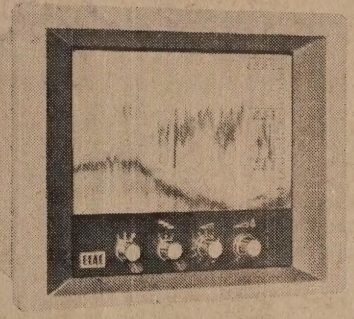

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Jamaica Bay BLACKBACKS

by Bruce Sucher

I've heard a lot of nasty things said about Jamaica Bay. I will admit that its waters are not the cleanest, nor for the average fisherman are they the most productive. But for the knowledgeable, dedicated angler, these waters produce impressive catches.

The bass fishermen, notoriously secretive, pull thousands of stripers from Jamaica Bay. Their deeds are done under cover of darkness in small, unlit skiffs. They leave their hotspots before first light for fear that some unwanted company might arrive on the scene. But not all are devoted to the cult of Roccus. Jamaica Bay has its share of fishermen who prefer other species. I am one of them.

I've had my best flounder fishing in Quincy, but let's face it, it's just not practical to make that 500 mile round trip every weekend. Jamaica Bay, on the other hand, is just down the proverbial street, and that's where I do the majority of my flounder fishing. Get to know this area well and you need go no further for excellent flounder catches. The time spent in traveling to whatever "promised land" could be better put to use in fishing and learning these productive waters.

The third week in March, depending upon the weather, is when I make my first trip. A few blackbacks will be pulled from the mud before then, but the catches are usually light. The best spots at this time are way in the back of the Bay—the waters adjacent to JFK Airport being the most fertile. A particularly good area is between the inlet to Hook Creek and the radar pier. The fish are cold and reluctant to move around much. If you don't start picking fish within twenty minutes, then move. Chumming helps; I prefer bank mussels, which I also use as bait. The number one fish catcher in Jamaica Bay is the bloodworm, but this time of year the blackbacks will occasionally prefer the mussel. The hits are light, so use a balanced outfit that's sensitive enough to telegraph the daintiest tap. My favorite hook is the bronzed #8 Carlisle. I snell them to a foot of twelve pound leader material, and then tie two in tandem. Use a heavy enough sinker to hold bottom and bounce it—then stop and slow lift, then bounce some more. If you're chumming, use a pot and bounce that too. The flounder are not big—the average being between a half and one-and-a-quarter pounds.

At low tide mussels can be picked and bloodworms dug.

Tools of the successful flounder fisherman: chumpot, mussels for chum and bait, and a lead bottom pounder.

But since they're the first of the new season, they are all appreciated. Nice catches can also be made at this time of year from the Cross Bay (north channel) Bridge.

As the water warms, the fish become active in their search for food. No longer are they only found in the deep holes. They begin to react to tidal flow. On the incoming tide, they move into the shallows (six to ten feet adjacent to the channels. The Silve Hole marsh is now a good choice That's the area just east of the ra road trestle. On sunny days, the fis will move right up to the flats sometimes in as little as three feet o water. I think they go there to catc some rays—a little warmth in thei coldblooded lives.

About four years ago I learned of this movement by accident. I was fishing between two islands in the channel. Slim pickings. I pulled the anchor before my friend tried to start the outboard. It wouldn't start. The wind pushed us towards the marsh and when I saw the bottom I dropped the hook to avoid running aground. While he toyed with the motor, I started to catch fish. After I boated a husky double-header, he stopped tinkering and dug in. I could watch the fish as they inhaled the bait. It was like using a bamboo snapper pole. I never had to let out any line. The action stopped as the tide began to drop. By then we had filled a full bushel basket. P.S.—we finally got that engine started.

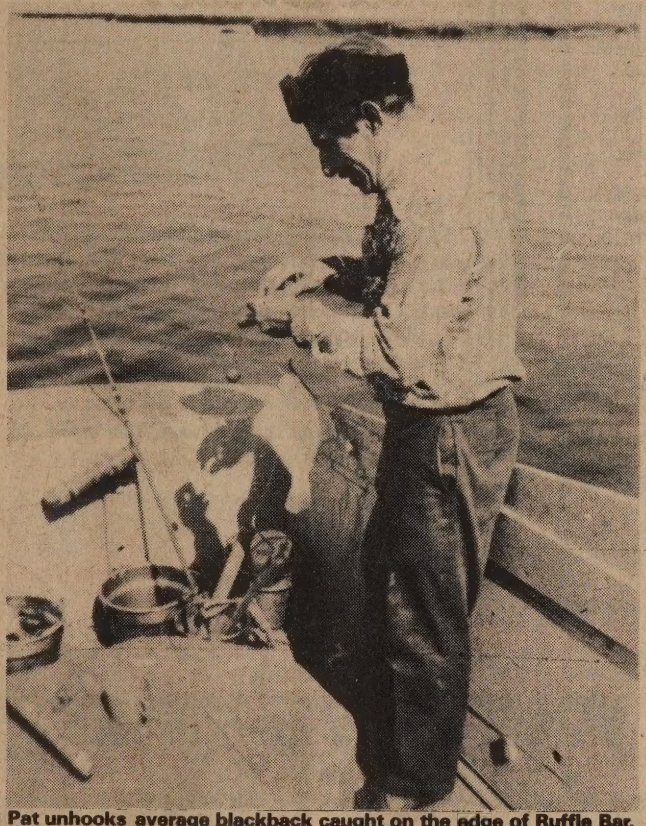
Some of the Sheepshead Bay party boats get in on this action, and in miserable weather a heated cabin is a blessing. If you fish from a small boat, then dress for winter conditions. Late March and early April weather can be deceptive in its warmth. Remember the water temperature is still in the low forties and that's what you'll be floating on; so don't use shore temperature as a guide to dress.

After the second week in April, the flounder fishing in Jamaica Bay begins to reach its peak. The fish that remain in the Silver Hole/Kennedy area are mostly small. You can catch large quantities, but why bother? There's not much meat on these palm-sized fish. What happened to the bigger ones? They've moved west towards the ocean. Now is the time for the Ruffle Bar near buoy 3. That's the island just east of the Marine Parkway Bridge. Work the deeper water of the channel edges on the outgoing tide and move up to the sides of the bar on incoming. The fishing is usually better as the tide is coming in.

The blackbacks are bigger and fight harder now. They don't play with your bait—they grab it. Chumming is rewarded with bigger fish. If you catch some crabs, then mash them up and put them in the chum pot. I sometimes use a crab trap to ensure a sufficient quantity of these critters, but mussels work, too.

If I had to pick a time that I would guarantee flounder action, it would be the first to third week of May. The fish seem to be everywhere, but the largest and thickest concentrations will be from the Ruffle Bar to the flats west of the Roundhouse and just off Manhattan Beach on the mussel beds. There can be heavy tides in this area, so you might have to use up to five ounces of lead. Balance your tackle accordingly, and remember that the heavier your line, the more lead you'll need. As the tide slacks, you can use less than a one-ounce sinker and that's when I break out the ultra-light gear.

The most important elements of successful flounder fishing are often ignored or unknown by most fishermen. They are: fishing the proper tides for a specific area and chumming with a pot. Last year I saw these words confirmed over and over; but let me illustrate. I was in a nine foot dinghy powered by a five horsepower outboard. I ran over to Manhattan Beach and fished the last two hours of incoming water. I was using a chum pot filled with clam bellies and the occasional calico crab that tried to steal my bloodworm. I had a steady pick of nice fish in the one to one-and-a-half pound range. As the tide slacked, the blackbacks became smaller and the crabs zeroed in. I left this spot with about fifteen nice flounder and moved to the edge of the flats off Plum Beach, near buoy five.



Pat unhooks average blackback caught on the edge of Ruffle Bar.

Now this is one of the most popular spots in the area, but most people refuse to recognize the fact that it is most productive on outgoing water. The fish feeding in the shallows, instinctively respond to the tidal flow by seeking deeper water in the channel where they'll be safe from bird and beast. I ambush them between the flats and the channel with a good chum slick and a baited hook.

I anchored in the middle of a fleet of fishing machines and larger boats. A few guys yelled, "What happened to the rest of your boat?" but I kept my silence. I hadn't seen a single fish come up and no one seemed to be taking their fishing very seriously. When the water began to drop, the fish started hitting. At least they did for me. I had some of the best flounder fishing of my life that day. I don't like to count fish—just say a full burlap of one to two-and-a-half pound flounder. And while I was in the midst of this blitz, the other boats were just picking. The difference was the chum, which no one else was doing. If any of you readers out there saw me that day, remember this: an expensive boat does not guarantee a full fish box. Unlike humans, fish are not impressed by powerful engines and oiled teak. There is no substitute for being properly equipped and knowing where to fish and at what stage of the tide.

You can still catch flounder after the third week in May, but the fishing is on the wane. Bass, blackfish, mackerel and fluke are more abundant and the flounder takes a back seat to this action. But if you still have room in the freezer for more of these fine eating fish, they're still available. The flats just west of the Roundhouse out to the Tin Can Grounds can produce some nice blackbacks. Many of these traveling flounder rendezvous with their fate at the Breezy Point Jetty. Some of the biggest fish of the season can be caught there. Just remember to fish the leeward side. On outgoing water, fish the east side of the jetty and on incoming, fish on the west side.

A good way to end this article would be to share some information with my fellow flounder fishermen. The one problem that we all share is the scarcity and high price of good bait. The Maine mud flats have been pretty well picked clean and the price and quality have both suffered. When I can, I dig my own supply in the flats of Gerritsen Creek (bank mussels can also be gathered there). At other times, I'm forced to buy the pink critters from a tackle shop. If after a day's fishing I still have some worms left, I take them home and freeze them in plastic sandwich bags. They're great bait, but a little soft when defrosted. Sand worms become too mushy after freezing, so don't even bother.

But if you have a boat in the water, then you have it made. My friend, Pat, developed the "worm car" and it really works. What he did was replace the wide mesh in a killy car with a fine stainless steel or plastic screening.

(Continued on page 17.)

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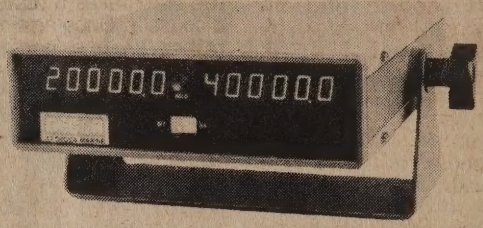

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The Triton II reports that on Saturday, a party of 14 headed up by Tom Baradet fished south of Block Island and loaded up with 200 cod from 6 to 15 lbs., all on bait. Capt. Hickey ran the boat for this trip. Please note that in last week's issue, the Triton II Ad should not have read "all bait and tackle included". Our goof.

Capt. Richie Rade of the **Marlin IV** reports the codfishing this past week and weekend was excellent to the tune of 15 to 30 cod per man, along with a few pollock. Richie says the spring run is on with a few fish to 30 lbs. (cod), pollock up to 20 lbs. Action is on bait and on jigs. On Monday, 8 fares had 300 cod. On Wednesday, 12 fares loaded up with 25 to 30 cod per man. This is all in the Block Island area. Starting Good Friday, the boat will be fishing cod every day at 6 a.m., open boat. ALSO WATCH FOR THE NEW **MARLIN V** COMING IN JUNE—which will be for half-day in shore trips.

MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait and Tackle reports that Ed and Al Henderson fishing east of buoy 44 took 24 flounders this weekend on bloodworm while chumming with clam and mussels. Both tides worked with fish up to 1-3/4 lbs.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports that the buoy 38 area seems to be giving up some flounder to those giving it the old college try with worms and a sash weight.

BAY SHORE

Capt. Neil of the **Casey Lee** called to say that their first flounder trip will be Thursday, March 23. See Ad for details.

CAPTREE

The **Captain Whitaker** reports that on Saturday flounders came in to the tune of 5 to 15 per man, with some fish 2 lbs. and better. The action was off Heckscher and the water a cold 33°. The fish were sluggish, but the ice is gone and Carl is looking for greatly increased catches once the water gets a little warmer, around 37°. High hook Saturday went to Brooklyn's Nat Cizaro with 15 fish. Fish are belting clam baits.

Speedy VI is presently in the shipyard having a third engine

EDITOR'S HEAD: (Continued from page 4.)

the time. The day that we all agree all of the time is the day that you can be certain we have all died and gone to heaven. Editorial comment offers an opportunity for a forum of all views. The editorial isn't the last word—rather it is the spoon that stirs the pot! We make every serious effort to print all points of view in our Chum Lines section. Although space limitations make it extremely difficult to do so, we have often printed long letters from responsible and concerned parties, especially if they disagreed with our editorial position.

The Editor's Head is a forum of philosophy. From time to time, one of the staff takes a topic that we feel is of interest to our constituents and we discuss it. Once again, not as the last and definitive word on the subject, but rather as one person's view or perception. Again, sometimes readers disagree and sometimes they agree; but when they sit down and tell you and us about it, the discussion opens up new vistas for us all. We are never insulted when our readers disagree with us. We may defend the position if we think that it has merit—but we are never offended. We welcome your opinions. After all, this is your publication and therefore it is your forum and your ideas are as important to other readers as our initial comment was. Maybe more important!

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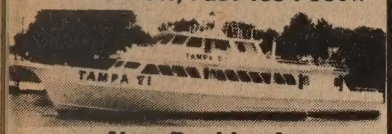

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BIG 85' • LATEST ELECTRONICS • LADIES ACCOM.
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FISH TEMPURA

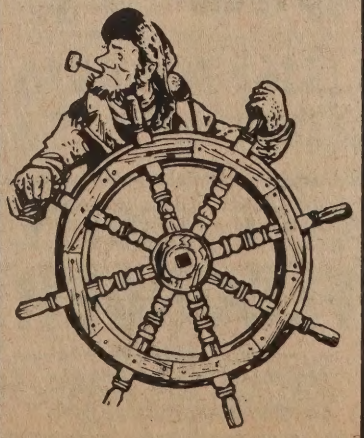
The firm white meat fish of winter, the flounder, ling and whiting are delicious when prepared in this traditional Japanese style.

TEMPURA BATTER
1 cup wholewheat flour
¼ tsp salt
1 tsp cornstarch
1¼ cups cold water

Cut the fillets of fish into bite size pieces. Mix the batter adding the dry ingredients slowly to make a smooth mixture.

In a heavy pan heat about 1 to 2 inches of sesame oil until a drop of water will sizzle (about 370°). Dip the fish pieces into the batter and then fry until golden brown and crisp.

Tempura should be served a few pieces at a time, as soon as cooked, on a hot bed of rice. Thinly sliced snow peas, asparagus tips, watercress, carrots and cucumbers should be served with the fish, and also dipped in the tempura batter and fried in the sesame oil.



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FLOUNDER

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★APRIL 17, 1978★

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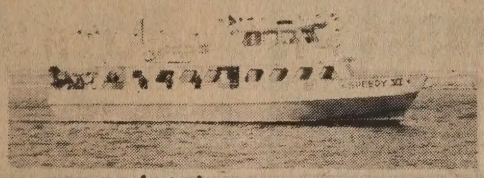

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First Trip Thurs., March 23

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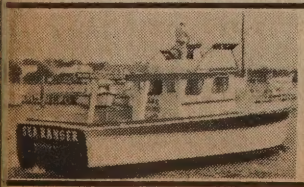

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FLOUNDER • FLOUNDER • FLOUNDER

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Sailing from Babylon Town Dock, Opposite Riverboat Restaurant

installed which will give the boat a full 1800 horsepower. Capt. Speedy Hubert is now using the new **Yankee II** while his boat is being worked on. Therefore, he will be sailing from Good Friday through Easter Week. If you are looking for some super tilefishing, check out the Speedy VI Ad this week and grab a phone quick.

Mrs. Hubert tells us that the Captree boats that sailed this past weekend had fair fishing which should escalate as the temperature warms everything up, which means this weekend things should really perk.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle says that the flounder are out there and waiting to be caught. Catches of 21 fish and 8 fish from the first Wantagh by boat fishermen using worm and mussel on the hook with clam chum on the bottom and also stirring up that bottom. A flounder-pounder working from the Nassau Shore Beach took 8 flounder in the one pound category with worm on the hook. Jonas himself made two trips in these last two weeks to fish cod on the **Viking Starship** and, believe it or not, he took the pool both times. How about that?

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells of lots of flounder all over the place with the Jones Beach piers and Reynolds Channel at Point Lookout being two spots he was told of in particular. 32 flounder were taken by one customer fishing just west of the bridge off Lido on mussel baits. The fish are spread out all over the bays and all you have to do is search them out, as a lot are being caught by whoever gives it a shot.

Ed at **Shore Isle Marina** tells us that 120 flounder were taken Saturday by Ed and Gregg Hershberg of Seaford, fishing off Florence Beach in a favorite deep hole using bloodworms on the hook and mussel chum, working both running tides. Another large catch of flounders was reported as taken off Massapequa Cove by angler Bill Ritchie.

MERRICK

Roy at **Merrick Marine Supply Company** reports that Ed Ferrett fished all day Sunday in East Bay in the deep holes and ended up with a pail half full of 1 to 1½ lb. flounders. These fish were taken in the deep holes on bloodworm on both running tides. Clam and mussel chum were also employed.

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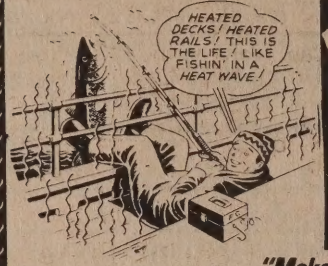

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FARE $55 • Maximum 70 Pass. Limit • Don't be left out! • Make your Resv. *NOW!!!*
Resv. Req., send $25.00 dep. to: VIKING FLEET, Box 497, Montauk, N.Y. 11954

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SAILING DAILY BY RESV. **ELJON** SPLIT CHARTERS AVAIL.
— Accepting Charters for 1978 Season —
Shark, Tuna, Blues & Bay Charters
Bait & Tackle Supplied — *Westlake Fishing Lodge*
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★ PECONIC FLOUNDERS ★
CAPT. CLARK I & II 8 A.M. EVERY DAY
★ Call for Spring Charters NOW!!!
★ Large Charters up to 50 Passengers
Starting Good Friday, March 24th, 1978
Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. & Jr. (516) 728-1709 or 728-2506

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Tony on the **Miss Freeport** called to say that flounder fishing was good Saturday on bloodworms while working the local creeks. Elmont's Matty Hryjack was high hook with 15 flounder. Sunday was fair but was hurt by high winds. Fish were running up to 1½ and 2 lbs., which is bigger than last year at this time. On Saturday, a 15 inch flounder was brought over the rail, and that's a big flounder. Come on down says Tony, the fish are definitely here.

The **Aloma II** reports flounder are definitely available in local creeks, with 13 being taken by three locals in one-and-a-half hours in Baldwin Harbor up to 1-3/4 lbs. on clam and mussel. Capt. Spider Schmidt is switching the boat over to flounders daily at this point.

Ron Feuring at **Sea Isle Sports** reports very good flounder fishing in Scow Creek and Sea Gull Creek and off the Ocean side golf course, Middle Bay and Bidell's Creek. Top of the tide has been working best with worms and clam baits and clam chum.

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** reports that on Saturday some nice sized whiting were taken fishing three miles south of the BA buoy. The boat spent the beginning of the day trying to catch some cod, but had poor results.

The **Capt. Al** reports good flounder fishing in Reynolds Channel, the Middle Bays, and South Hempstead Bay. The fish averaged 3/4 to 1½ lbs., and up to 2½ lbs. The Captain said that as the day progresses the fishing was better and that there should be a good season ahead of us.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that they will start weekend spring charters for cod and flounder this weekend. The **Blue Fin** and the **Blue Fin II** will be in full operation in the beginning of April. The boats will be accepting charters for the spring. See the Ad for further details.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Clem of the **Commodore** happily reports that on Saturday 85 fish were taken by 14 fares. Lou George of Queens had 15 flounder. Ed Strindys had 8 flounder, including a 2 lb. 2 oz. pool fish. On Sunday, 25 fares took between 290 and 300 flounder. Pete Deryck of Brooklyn had 22 flounder, including a 2 lb. 3 oz. pool winner. John Trost of the Bronx bagged 19 flounder. Clem says the fish are moving around and are of mixed sizes which is a great sign. He

★FREEPORT★

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- MOONLIGHT CRUISES
- NITE BLUE TRIPS
- CANYON TRIPS
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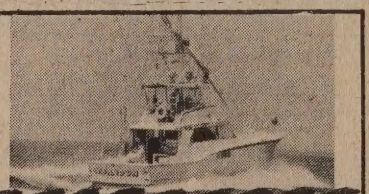

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worked Reynolds Channel from buoy 20 to 16, Baldwin Bay and Hog Channel. Fish are all over the place and are hitting worm and clam baits on both sides. The Commodore is now sailing daily except for Mondays.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **New Eagle** reports that nice sized whiting were taken aboard on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday, high hook had a catch of 40 whiting. The Captain is looking foward to better fishing as the water warms. There will be special night trips during the Easter weekend.

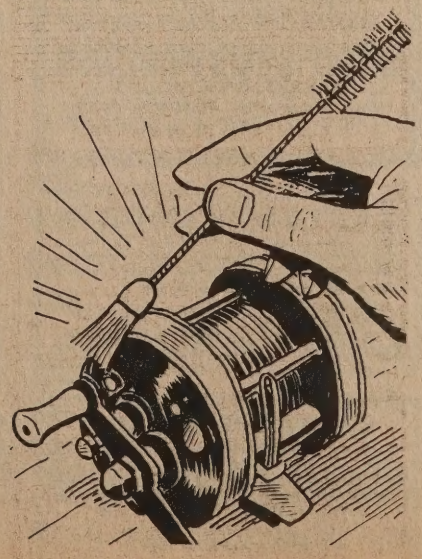
The **Atomic II** reports that they picked away at the whiting over the weekend. On Saturday, high hook took 40 whiting and fish up to four pounds were taken. On Sunday fish up to three pounds were taken and high hook had 35 nice whiting.

Tile fish fans had best cast a careful eye on the fast booking dates on the **Tampa VI** ad, as Capt. Victor advises that bookings are coming in fast, so don't be shut out.

The Dorothy B reports that on Sunday his fares pounded flounder at Silver Hole to the tune of an average of 15 flounder per man with some people catching around the twenty mark. Fish were up to 1½ lbs., and it looks like a very good flounder spring. On Sunday, they fished Deb's Inlet and local wrecks picking up more flounder up to 2½ lbs. This was all with worms and clam.

The **Elsie K III** started flounder fishing Sunday and got good catches at Silver Hole, the local hotspot. Tom says fish were big. High hook was 15 flounder and the pool fish ran 1½ lbs.

Capt. Butch of the **Zephyr** fished Jersey's Navesink River on Sunday and averaged 12 to 13 fish per man, flounder running from ½ to 1¼ lbs., on worms and mussels. Butch says the flounder action is getting progressively better each day and that the fish are larger this year at this time than in '77.



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HUNTINGTON

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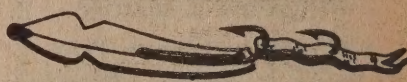
KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that the Nissequogue River according to Steve Nemeth on Saturday gave forth 30 eels to a jacking spear and also that the waters are loaded with white perch.



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FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. Rates for non-subscribers are 25 cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the serial number off their *Subscriber's Club Card* with the order. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. To run a photograph with the ad, add $13.95.

BOATS & MOTORS

AL RISTORI'S FISHING MACHINE—1976 Mako 22' with 1976 Evinrude 135 h.p. Boat comes with spray hood and Bimini top. Brand new power head in engine. Can include Garcia Graph Recorder, CB, outriggers, compass, etc., with purchase. Rig in storage at Montauk Marine Basin. Call 201-833-2000 or 212-695-4290, and ask for Al Ristori.

1977 JOHNSON NEW
2-$199; 4-$295; 6-$405; 15-$600; 55-$1199; 70-$1368; 85-$1690; 115-$1790. FOB. Outboard Marine Service, 24 Cottage Ave., Bay Shore. 516-665-3885.

CHRIS CRAFT 22' Tournament Fisherman, 1975; 200 h.p. Inboard. Bimini, full enclosure. Outriggers, wash-down, rod holders, head, recorder. Excellent condition. $9000. 516-666-5674.

FISHERMAN'S DREAM
'69 29' ScottieCraft Fiberglas Fishing Machine. 75 twin 250 h.p. Chryslers. Equipment too numerous to mention. $25,000. Call for details. Days: 516-744-1707. Nites: 516-587-4029.

SHAMROCK 20 New Pilot Boat, coming to EASTERN—LONG ISLAND BOAT SHOW, at Southampton, 4/15/16. Also Aristocraft, GoSail, Little Rhody. Call ROVINA, 516-728-0922 for Discount Tickets and Catalogs.

1976 25' Classic F/B Sedan Cruiser, w/223 h.p. Merc. I/O. Loaded with accessories. $19,500. 516-RO 6-0080.

1977 23' Rabalo, Center Console. Johnson 200 h.p. Power Tilt. Ross recorder, CB, VHF, full enclosure. Bimini top, outriggers, tackle box, front mats. 90-gal. gas tank. In water. $10,750. 516-221-2770.

20' SeaCraft, 77 140S Evinrude, Trim & Tilt, Dodger, Ross Dav/recorder, CB, Morse control. Compass, tach., bilge & washdown pumps. Loaded. Clean. Excellent condition. $6395. Call: 798-1016.

1973 21' T-Craft, Cuddy, '76 135 h.p. Johnson electric ETL with 73 Cox Trailer with power winch. Oversized tires. Comes with graph recorder, new '77 canvas, CB, portable gin pole. Outriggers, winter cover, and all CG equipment. All in good condition. Asking $6000. Call: Days 201-541-1550, Ext. 310 or after 7 PM 516-481-4325.

MAKO 1973 17' with 1970 Johnson 115 h.p. Bimini top and spray hood. Console and seat covers. Depth finder and spotlight. Must sell. No reasonable offer refused. Call: 516-487-2976 OR 516-487-6806. Ask for Fred Ondris.

CHRYSLER 210 h.p. Freshwater cooled. Direct Drive $1000. Flagship 200 h.p. Rebuilt. Rebuilt starters, alternators, generators in stock. (Inboards only.) LAWRENCE B. FELS. Call 24 hrs. 516-766-4345.

CRUISERS—"Bonanza" 21' 1973 188 Merc I/O. Sleeps 2, w/head, wash down, rod holders, riggers, ice box. Conv. top and side curtains. Compass, winter cover. Excellent. $5500. After 6 PM. 212-531-4662.

25' PACEMAKER ALGLASS Center Console, 10' Beam. New 270 h.p. Crusader engine, excellent condition. Rear controls, CB, depth recorder. FAST. Many extras. Can be seen at BARNETT'S BOATYARD. 516-RO 6-9685. Price: $6500.

1976 9.9 h.p. Johnson Long Shaft, six. gal. gas tank. Less than 25 hours. $475. Call: 516-546-1803. Weekends & Evenings.

WANTED: 13' Boston Whaler Hull ONLY. Call: 516-826-3919.

1977 EVINRUDES
2-$214; 4-$310; 6-$425; 9.9-$565; 15-$642; 25-$742; 35-$842; 55-$1230; 70-$1428; 85-$1710; 115-$1825; 140-$1925; 175-$2400; 200-$2500. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, N.Y. Scott & McCulloch Parts. FOB. Call 516-599-3003.

1975 Aquasport 19' 6" Center Console. 1975 Evinrude 85 h.p. 1976 Cox Trailer. Used 2 seasons. Bimini top. Spray hood, bench seat. $4800. Days: 914-963-6390.

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One Pair 20 x 18, 4-bladed propellers reconditioned. Standard taper 1 3/4 shaft. Days: 516-293-5533. Eves: 516-669-5369.

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BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT—Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 Broadway, Woodside, NY. 212-426-7039.

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MISCELLANEOUS

MAKO SHARK JAWS—From fish up to 200 lbs. Bleached and braced. Ready to hang. Fish mounts drastically reduced. Deer hides, hair on for wall decorations. ISLAND TAXIDERMY, 207 Route 109, West Babylon. 587-5002.

FREE KNIFE SHARPENING—Introductory offer. Any knife sharpened FREE with this ad. Additional knives 50 cents each, any size. Sharpening done on professional equipment. We have the only professional honing machine from Montauk to Jersey. HOOK, LINE & SINKER, 165 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, NY. 516-623-2522. Offer expires 4/2/78.

WANTED: Two fishermen to share expenses while fishing once each weekend. Entire season. On my 1975 twin diesel Sportfisherman. West Islip, bay, ocean. Reliable. Arrangements flexible. Tackle optional. April thru Sept. 516-587-7383.

RAMP AVAILABLE—In and Out within same week, $5 - includes parking; Season Pass—$95. HARBOR MARINE on the Mianus River. 15 minutes from L. I. Sound, Cos Cob, CT. 203-869-7211.

"JAWS" SHARK BELT BUCKLE in rich, glowing brass finish. Heavy metal buckle, oval, depicts great white shark with jaws wide open. Frightening teeth. If you fish and wear pants, this is for you. Send $5.50 plus $.50 postage to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY. 11566. Not a dull, flat buckle. This buckle is in high, realistic bas-relief. Looks like it will bite you!

Striped Bass Pin or Bluefish Pin. All metal. Gold or Silver finish. Great for caps, jackets, tie, car/boat dash. Send $4.95 Ck. or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY. 11566.

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BUILD THE FIGHTING FISHERMAN. Amazing action wire figure moving in balance with rod, line and sinker. Instructions and full size patterns for easy, fast wire forming. Great token gift for the fisherman. Each kit—$1.50. F. NONNENMACHER, 1245 84th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228.

ANGLER'S EDGE GET ACQUAINTED SALE—10% off our already low catalog prices for orders accompanied by this Ad placed prior to March 31, 1978. Every item (except Penn International Series Reels & Zebco Cardinal Reels) may be ordered at these reduced prices. If you do not already have our informative catalog, just send $1 (refunded with 1st order) to: Angler's Edge, 109 Summit Street, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771. Avoid missing our next sale!

ATTENTION CAPTAINS: Partyboat/Charterboat business FOR SALE. 16 yrs. established profit-maker. Top location. Everything in good shape. Turnkey opportunity. Details to serious inquiries only. Contact: Capt. W. Butler, Box 248, Montauk, NY. 11954.

REAL ESTATE

CATSKILLS SPORTSMANS PARADISE. Two hours from L.I. Some (3-4-5) acre parcels still available. Roads, electric, in private area, now under construction. $3000 per acre, 10% down, (15) year terms. Spring, price increases. For brochure, call DEER RUN ESTATES, 516-666-6171.

BABYLON BROKER "WATERFRONT"
80' Bulkhead-boat ramp. Plus magnificent panorama view of the "Great South Bay." This fantastic home features master size bedrooms, cabinet-lined kitchen with all appliances; 2 baths; formal dining room, plus possible M/D-Garage. Best offer over $35,000. Owner desperate. THIS HOUSE IS WARRANTEED FOR 1 FULL YEAR. Carol Neway. 661-1400.

FISHING TACKLE

FOR SALE—CUSTOM BUILT TACKLE
Matched sets of inshore tackle consisting of casting, trolling & popping rods, matched to the best in today's reels. All combos in triple-A shape. Sets include: 2, 5½' popping rods w/Ambass. 6000's; 2, 6½ spinning rods w/Daiwa 8600's; 2, 6' wire line/jig rods w/Ambass. 9000's; 2, 6½' wire line trolling w/Ambass. 9000's; 2, 12# IGFA class rods w/Penn 112H; 2, 20# IGFA Class rods Alum. Butts w/Penn 112H; 2 30# IGFA class rods alum. butts w/Penn 113H; 2, 6# IGFA class rods w/Ambass. 7000 reels. $1500 FIRM. Call after 7 PM. 201-233-4439.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	6:47	7:12	7:38	7:53	7:28	7:48	8:16	8:38	10:17	10:31	10:09	10:26	6:45	7:02	3/23
FRI	7:46	7:49	8:15	8:32	8:05	8:23	8:58	9:15	10:49	11:05	10:48	11:06	7:25	7:45	3/24
SAT	8:05	8:29	8:53	9:11	8:45	8:59	9:37	9:55	11:25	11:42	11:30	11:46	8:06	8:25	3/25
SUN	8:46	9:12	9:33	9:52	9:22	9:41	10:19	10:37	—	12:05	—	12:11	8:50	9:08	3/26
MON	9:31	9:57	10:15	10:36	10:08	10:27	11:04	11:23	12:25	12:49	12:28	12:57	9:34	9:56	3/27
TUE	10:19	10:48	11:02	11:25	10:59	11:20	11:55	—	1:08	1:36	1:15	1:46	10:22	10:46	3/28
WED	11:14	11:43	11:53	—	11:56	—	12:13	12:48	1:58	2:28	2:05	2:39	11:15	11:42	3/29
THUR	—	12:12	12:21	12:53	12:18	12:55	1:09	1:51	2:52	3:26	3:01	3:39	—	12:16	3/30

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

3/2	6:34	5:51
3/7	6:26	5:57
3/12	6:18	6:03
3/17	6:09	6:09
3/22	6:01	6:14
3/27	5:52	6:20

PHASES OF THE MOON

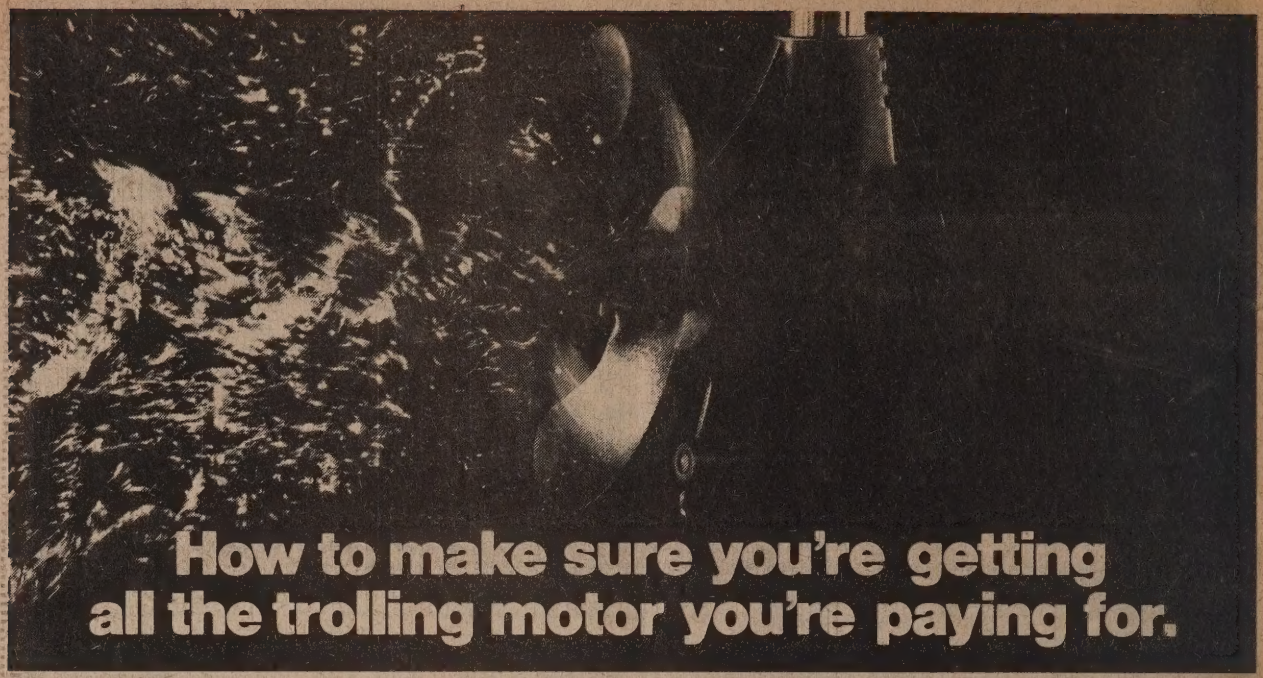
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
3/9	3/16	3/24	3/31

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	3:10	**9:45**	3:40	**10:05**
Fri.	3:55	**10:25**	4:20	**10:50**
Sat.	4:35	**11:20**	5:05	**11:45**
Sun.	5:30	—	6:00	**12:15**
Mon.	6:30	**12:45**	6:55	**1:10**
Tues.	7:25	**1:40**	7:50	**2:10**
Wed.	8:25	**2:45**	8:55	**3:10**
Thurs.	9:25	**3:50**	10:00	**4:15**



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Go for the most efficient motor on the market today. The Wondertroll 606 motor from Shakespeare.

Let's face it. Just about any trolling motor you buy is going to drag you through the water. But if you're out to get your money's worth — and who isn't, these days — you're looking for performance plus features *plus* efficiency. That narrows it down.

To a field of one.

The Wondertroll 606 motor. From Shakespeare.

For pure push-pull efficiency, the 606 is honestly the best money can buy. It draws less battery power per pound of thrust than any electric in the business. That adds up to more trolling time on a single charge.

But that's only the beginning. The 606 isn't just the most efficient motor going. We don't know of one that's better built, either. A permanent magnet gives it a longer life. So does Shakespeare's exclusive system that dissipates motor heat underwater. And the whole drive unit is guarded against water damage and corrosion by our special "O" ring seals.

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Shakespeare

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Shakespeare 606 That's how.